



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Denies Plans To Create Gulf Crisis Fund

NC1312205390 Paris AFP in English 1946 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 13 (AFP)—The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on Thursday denied reports it was setting up a multi-billion-dollar fund to help Arab states adversely affected by the Gulf crisis.

The GCC's deputy secretary general for economic affairs, 'Abdallah al-Quwayz, was quoted Monday by the Qatari newspaper daily Al-Rayah as saying the GCC would set aside 10 to 15 billion dollars for needy Arab states.

Mr. al-Quwayz, according to the daily, said that the GCC would spell out the amount and terms of the fund at a summit scheduled to take place on December 22 in Doha.

But an official statement issued here by the GCC denied this report.

The GCC is formed of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Oil Industry Cooperation With Egypt Examined

JN1112201490 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
10 Dec 90 p 9

[Report by 'Adil Ibrahim]

[Text] The "Economic Page" yesterday conducted interviews with Arab oil ministers participating in the meeting of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, OAPEC, to learn about the repercussions of the Arabian Gulf crisis on the world oil market, the prospects for supporting joint Arab oil projects, and cooperation between Egypt and the Arab countries to implement oil projects as well as to benefit from oil projects and Arab experience and skills.

Today we met Dr. Matanyus Habib, Syrian oil and mineral resources minister, who said:

OAPEC and its companies are one aspect of the common Arab action. I would like to note here the suggestion I made in Kuwait last year on the need to form an Arab petroleum group within OPEC to adopt a unified position on the issues discussed in OPEC meetings. Adopting such a suggestion will reconcile the national interests of the members and pan-Arab interests.

With regard to technical cooperation between Syria and Egypt in the oil industry, the Syrian minister said:

We have exchanged visits of experts and committees between the two oil ministries. I instructed the Syrian oil companies to consider Egyptian companies as qualified companies to implement projects in Syria. I also gave instructions to seek assistance from Egyptian oil experts to work with Syrians instead of foreign experts in new oil projects. A cooperation agreement has been signed to

exchange experience, information, and delegations in oil industry fields such as exploration, production, refining, distribution, and marketing. I discussed with 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, petroleum and mineral resources minister, the prospects of establishing joint companies in surveying, digging, drilling. We will seek assistance from Egyptian experts to implement projects to exploit the associated gas and natural gas in generating electricity. We are planning to develop large gas projects that will produce 10 million cubic meters of gas daily to generate electricity.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Discusses Current Palestinian Problems

LD1312203390 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The brother leader and president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] made an important political speech at the revolutionary and democratic Arab dialogue meeting—the pan-Arab conference in support of the uprising—which was organized by the permanent secretariat of the Arab people's conference.

In his speech the brother president asked the participants to form a committee which would contact Arab leaders, follow up what is happening in the occupied Arab areas, and pursue the responsibilities of the Arab nation toward our Palestinian people and their blessed uprising.

He also called on them to frankly express their opinion, diagnose the ailment, and put their hand on the wound. They should not be content with just issuing statements in support of the uprising; they must adopt practical stands and steps.

Abu-'Ammar revealed that the donations have suddenly vanished: since July not one cent has been received in support of the uprising, the losses of our people as a result of the Gulf crisis have amounted to \$10.5 billion, and the contributions of the Palestinians in the Gulf to their relatives in the occupied soil—which amounted to \$1.4 billion—have mostly ceased.

The brother president Abu-'Ammar once again warned against the danger of Jewish immigration to Palestine. He said: I sound the alarm once again. The danger to immigration is not confined to Palestine but affects the entire Arab nation. He pointed to the map of greater Israel which Israel has printed on its new currency and which embraces as greater Israel one third of Saudi Arabia, half of Sinai, the whole of Lebanon, the whole of Jordan, half of Syria, all of Palestine, and two-thirds of Iraq.

PLO Rejects Disarming Palestinians in Lebanon

JN1312181690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Zayd Wahbah, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's representative in Lebanon, today rejected the idea of disarming the Palestinians in Lebanon and said that

some officials in this country want to carry out the wishes of the United States.

In a statement made in Sidon, southern Lebanon, Wabbah appealed to Damascus to end Syrian-Palestinian differences and fight alongside Iraq. Wabbah said: The rifles of our camps are rifles for the intifadah, the nationalist movement, and the Islamic movement and we will never lay them down no matter how obligatory the U.S. decision might be to some government officials.

The Palestinian official added: We support the legitimate Lebanese Government, provided its intention is to liberate southern Lebanon from the Zionist enemy and not to disarm the Palestinian camps. He added: We will never allow anyone or any power, regardless of its size, to rob us of our security and safety.

Addressing Damascus, Wabbah said: Enough discord and estrangement. We ask President Hafiz al-Asad and Syria to place its Army alongside the Iraqi Army and the intifadah in order to liberate Palestine, the Golan, and Lebanon.

Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi had rejected the Palestinian demand to begin a dialogue to establish a framework for organizing the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. The al-Ta'if agreement, on whose basis al-Hirawi was elected, stipulates the dissolution of all militias before next March, but this agreement makes no clear reference to over 10,000 PLO fighters in southern Lebanon.

Italy Seeks Prison Sentence for Salah Khalaf

PM1312113290 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian
6 Dec 90 p 23

["g.c." report: "Venice: 16 Years Requested for 'Arafat's Deputy']

[Excerpt] Venice—According to the Venice district attorney's office, the PLO's second-in-command, 'Arafat's deputy, should be sentenced to 16 years imprisonment. According to Assistant District Attorney Gabriele Ferrari, he is guilty of involvement in the illegal importing of weapons for terrorist purposes: Basically, he is alleged to have ordered his men to supply Mario Moretti and other Red Brigades members in 1979 with weapons, explosives, and rockets subsequently brought to Italy by the sailing ship "Papago."

The attorney's indictment speech yesterday lasted four hours. Ferrari confined himself to requesting four sentences: for Abu-Iyad [nom de guerre of Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf]; for General Armando Sportelli, former chief of SISMI's [Intelligence and Military Security Service] second division, on charges of divulging state secrets and abetting; and for carabinieri corporal Damiano Balestro, cryptographer at the Beirut embassy, believed guilty of corruption and divulging state secrets. Prison sentences of three years, five months were requested for both. A four-month

sentence for concealment was requested for Colonel Angiolo Livi, former chief of SISMI's first division. [passage omitted]

OPEC Affairs

Kuwaiti Minister Says Iraq Will Not Get Fields

AU1312143390 Paris AFP in English 1406 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Vienna, Dec 13 (AFP)—Kuwait will not give up "any part" of its territory to Iraq and will reject any negotiations with the Iraqi regime pending "complete" military withdrawal, Kuwait's oil minister Rashid al-Amiri said here Thursday.

"We will not accept any partial withdrawal," he told a news conference after attending a meeting here of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. "We will not accept a single Iraqi soldier in our land," he added. "We are not willing to negotiate with Saddam Husayn unless and until they withdraw completely from Kuwait, the legitimate government is restored and they pay compensation for all damages" caused in the emirate, the minister said. "Then and only then we will consider sitting with Saddam Husayn to negotiate on pending issues," he said.

Asked whether Kuwait was prepared to transfer its al-Rumaylah oilfields to Iraq, Mr. al-Amiri firmly rejected any such possibility. "We won't give any part of our land as a gift to Saddam Husayn and his regime," he said.

The minister said prospects for a peaceful solution to the crisis were in the hands of Saddam Husayn. "We always hope the crisis will be resolved peacefully," he said. "We have tried our best."

Mr. al-Amiri said Kuwait was committed to OPEC unity and had tried to keep "any political conflict" out of the OPEC talks. But, he said, Iraq had filed a "protest" to the conference against the presence of a representative of the Kuwaiti government-in-exile. He said the Iraqi protest was presented during the meeting in a letter to OPEC chairman Sadek Boussena of Algeria from chief Iraqi delegate Dr. Ramzi Salman Husayn.

He read out the text of the Iraqi letter which claimed that as of last August 8: "Kuwait became the 19th governorate of Iraq as a result of the reunification," and expressed "strong reservations" about the attendance of a representative of "former Kuwait."

Mr. al-Amiri said he had "strongly rejected" the protest, also by letter, dismissing it as an attempt by the Iraqi regime to spread "fallacies and lies," and reaffirming Kuwait's sovereignty.

The Kuwaiti minister said that in the event of a peaceful solution, Kuwaiti oilfields should be able to resume normal production "within a few weeks." He said Kuwait would

abide by its allotted production quota, but recalled that Iraq had been benefitting from "special considerations" at the end of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

He hoped this would also apply to Kuwait and said the emirate expected to be allowed "a fair quota" taking into account the destruction caused by the occupation.

OPEC Meeting Concludes in Vienna 13 Dec

LD1312154690 Tehran IRNA in English 1129 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 13, IRNA—The 88th ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) wound up its 2-day session here today.

"The conference, having reviewed the oil market situation, in pursuance of OPEC's declared objectives for a stable market, and its determination to strengthen that market, resolved to continue with the August 1990 agreement until the present crisis (in the Persian Gulf) is resolved," said a press release issued at the end of the meeting.

It also reaffirmed its commitment to the provisions and mechanisms embodied in Resolution No. 87.300 of July, 1990, which it said will be immediately reinstated as soon as the crisis is over. It said the ministers will meet again in March, 1991, to review the market situation.

A production ceiling of 22.5 million and a basket price of dlrs. 21 per barrel are among the approvals of the 87th OPEC meet.

The Nigerian oil minister, speaking after the session, expressed satisfaction with the agreements reached by the OPEC ministers. He said the decisions reached today will strengthen the market.

The Saudi oil minister also was optimistic that the OPEC agreements will have a positive impact on the oil market. He stressed that Riyadh will return to its official quota after the end of the Persian Gulf crisis triggered by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Another member of the Saudi delegation said in an interview that his country would work for preservation of the dlrs. 21 pb price after the Persian crisis is settled.

Excerpts from the press release issued at the end of the Vienna session of the OPEC ministers:

The conference unanimously re-elected Sadek Boussena, minister of mines and industry of Algeria and head of its delegation, as its president. Also Ginandjar Kartasasmita, minister of mines and energy of Indonesia and head of its delegation, was unanimously re-elected alternate president.

The conference appointed Shaybah Sa'id al-Hamili, governor for the United Arab Emirates, as chairman of the board of governors for 1991, and Gonzalo Plaza, governor for Venezuela, to be alternate chairman for the same period.

The conference reviewed and discussed the report of the economic commission board, the report of the secretariat on the monitoring of member countries' production, as well as the report of the ministerial monitoring committee.

Referring to the decision taken earlier this month by the Independent Petroleum Exporting Countries (IPEC) at their meeting in Cancun, Mexico, to pursue closer consultations with OPEC to stabilize the market, and in furtherance of OPEC's determination to ensure market stability, the conference agreed to the establishment of a technical working committee between the OPEC secretariat and IPEC to undertake joint studies on issues of common interest and to exchange information.

The conference also agreed to coordinate and strengthen the participation by OPEC member countries on environmental issues.

It also observed the need to foster continuous producer-consumer dialogue in order to attain a stable oil market, free of disruptions.

The next ordinary meeting of the conference will be convened in Vienna, Austria on 4th June, 1991.

Algeria

Islamic Fundamentalists Seek Hamrouche Dismissal

LD1412121790 Paris International Service in French
0635 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Islamic fundamentalists staged a show of strength yesterday in the streets in Algiers. Two thousand young fundamentalist demonstrators marched toward the presidential palace to ask for the dismissal of Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche. They also accused the head of the government of pushing the country to the brink of ruin. They are also threatening to take up arms, as simple as that. These demonstrations were staged by the Islamic League of the Martyrs' Sons, which is affiliated with the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]. The movement requests the granting of land to the sons of members of the resistance killed during the Algerian [independence] war, the reestablishment of the ministry for veterans which was abolished last year, finally housing facilities for persons who were disabled in the war.

The demonstration ended calmly, but it remains that the FIS forces continue their pressure not only in connection with the social field but also regarding the Palestinian issue, since recruitment offices have been opened to enlist young people for a holy war against Israel. Anne Duseize [correspondent in Algiers]

[Duseize] Six minutes were enough for 'Ali Belhadj, the most passionate leader [of the FIS] and the one most listened to by the young FIS activists, to convince on 5 December hundreds of young people to enroll in the lists of Jihad for Palestine. Since last Saturday, an office was opened in the premises of the People's Council of Algiers, [on] the town hall premises. The same thing took place in several towns or provinces where the FIS has a majority. A few days later, hundreds, even thousands enrolled to take part in the holy war, foremost among them was of course 'Ali Belhadj.

It seems however that the FIS is not ready to send these young people as of today to fight in the occupied territories. It is rather a question of a political operation aimed at, I quote, denouncing the apathy of Arab states in the Muslim countries and the complicity between them regarding the Palestinian question.

The government is not reacting for the time being. Its priority is to push the economic reforms through. It will be the job of mayors and walis [governors] to engage in polemics with the FIS.

Socialist Vanguard Party Congress Opens

LD1312144690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The first congress of the Socialist Vanguard Party [PAGS] opened at the 5 July Olympic complex in Algiers this morning. The four-day congress, held under the slogan "Work, Justice and Democracy," is attended by representatives of political parties, historic figures, and

leaders, including Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN [National Liberation Front], Bentobal [leading figure in the war of liberation], National People's Assembly speaker Abdelaziz Belkhadem, deputy speaker Boubekeur Belkaid, and political parties' representatives, including Nait Djouei, [secretary general of] the Socialist Forces Front [FFS].

The opening speech was delivered by Mr. (Belzine). He recalled the struggle waged by the PAGS and its activists since the creation of the Communist Party, and also the harassment to which they were subjected while operating clandestinely. He stressed the determination of all party activists to defend the principles for which the party was created, such as social justice and the defense of the poorest sections of society, primarily workers and peasant farmers.

The bureau of the congress was then set up under the chairmanship of Hachemi Cherif, whom was elected with an overwhelming majority. PAGS Secretary General Sadek Hadjeres then took to the floor. He recalled the 25 years of struggle waged by the party, and also the harassment to which it was subjected during that time. He also highlighted the strategic line drawn up by his party, saying that it is scientific and aimed at building a socialist society and at carrying out the tasks of national reconstruction. He added that the PAGS is an extension of the Algerian Communist Party and an integral part of the nationalist movement. He said it would continue its class struggle, taking into account the new set of circumstances and the present situation.

Hadjeres went on to say: The transition toward capitalism is not a choice made by our party, but was imposed by objective circumstances, particularly the international circumstances. He also commented on the accusations which some political parties and organizations are levelling at his party, such as having given its allegiance to the late President Houari Boumedienne. He said in this respect: We demanded the introduction of an agrarian reform, the nationalization of the hydrocarbons industry, and democracy for the workers and their organizations long before the law on the agrarian revolution was issued and before the introduction of the nationalization process.

Hadjeres also hailed the achievements made in 1969 and during the rule of the late Houari Boumedienne, and added: The industrial foundations laid down by Algeria in the seventies helped the country face the problems of the eighties. Commenting on the changes in the world, including in the Soviet Union, he said that perestroika is an historic movement which has opened the way for a new perception of new relations, which, however, would not enable the Soviet Union, in a short period time, to make up for the backwardness embodied in bureaucratic sluggishness and huge military expenses.

With regard to the political dimension of the congress, Mr. Hadjeres said that in order to make a strong contribution toward an exit from the crisis [as heard] for which

solutions already exist, we must always rely on precise knowledge of the great changes taking place in the world and in our society. Touching on the subject of a transitional government, the task of which would be to prepare for elections, he said that he is against the idea because it would not be in Algeria's interest. Concerning the democratic process, Mr. Hadjeres expressed his fears about what he called some reactionary political formations, which he regards as an obstacle to the strengthening of democracy in society. He referred in this respect to the role played by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], which he described as reactionary. He said that it resorts to a tactical discourse to reassure citizens it will be able to set up what it calls the Islamic state.

It is worth mentioning that a number of guests intervened, including the FFS representative, a PLO representative, and a representative of the Socialist Workers' Party.

Egypt

Mubarak Accused of Yielding to 'American Pressure'

JN1312080290 Amman THE STAR in English
13-19 Dec 90 p 4

[Report by a STAR staff writer]

[Text] The president of the Labour Socialist Party in Egypt, Mr Ibrahim Shukri, has accused President Husni Mubarak and his government of yielding under American pressure to welcome the presence of foreign troops in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries. "America has penetrated every single cell in Egypt and many researchers, university professors, governors and others receive salaries from the American aid," said Mr Shukri, whose party was the only one in Egypt to condemn foreign intervention in the Gulf crisis in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"They (Mubarak and his aides) were afraid that they will lose American aid and grants if they rejected American policies," said Shukri. "But in fact their conviction is a foolish one and it is not shared by the Egyptian people."

The Egyptian politician was in Amman last week among an Islamic Popular Delegation which visited Jordan and then traveled to Iran before visiting Damascus, Riyadh and Baghdad to promote an Arab-Islamic settlement to the Gulf crisis.

He said that while the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has surprised everyone, although it was known that there were causes for the two countries' disputes, he did not think that the Iraqi move was the suitable method to claim its rights.

He said that his party reacted against the American intervention because he and his colleagues were surprised at the speed with which the United States pushed the UN Security Council to adopt resolutions condemning Iraq before inviting Western armies to deploy in the Gulf region. "They (the Americans) say they were

invited by the Saudis, but I say they would have invited themselves anyway," says the dignified Shukri. He said that America's real aims were revealed by Gen. Dougan who was fired as US Air Force Commander because he said that America's real target was Saddam Husayn and his military arsenal.

"In the light of these dangers we thought that the occupation of Kuwait was secondary to the issue of Western presence in the Gulf and the US objective of destroying Iraq's military and economic might."

He accused Egyptian official press and the Wafd party newspaper of exaggerating the details of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and "misleading" the Egyptian public opinion. "The Wafd is an opposition party, but disagrees with us on the Gulf because of the close connections the Wafd leader has with Kuwait and the party's newspaper with Saudi Arabia," Mr Shukri said. The Muslim Brotherhood, who are in coalition with Mr Shukri's own party have condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, but stopped short of condemning Saudi Arabia for its invitation of foreign troops. "The view of the Muslim Brotherhood is close to ours and the Islamic alliance attaches great importance to the issue of foreign presence in the Holy Land," he said.

But he added that the Muslim Brotherhood did not want to take a harsh stand from Saudi Arabia. He said that they accepted Saudi claims that Iraq was not going to stop at its occupation of Kuwait and that the foreign presence will end when Iraq withdraws from Kuwait.

Mr Shukri criticized President Mubarak's handling of the extraordinary Arab summit in Cairo when "his policies were identical to those of the United States." "It was a big mistake by President Mubarak because when was the American position fair to Muslims and Arabs? Just look at Palestine, Israel's invasion of Lebanon and Israeli practices in the occupied territories."

But he did not go as far as accusing President Mubarak of complicity with the United States in furthering its designs in the region. "It is simply a matter of a few material gains like the cancelling of Egypt's \$7 billion military debts and encouraging other countries to follow suit. All these are big gains to President Mubarak, but in reality he is eroding Egypt's leading role among Muslim and Arab countries," said Mr Shukri.

He regretted the fact that at one stage the parties that were pushing the United States to strike Iraq were Kuwait, Israel and Egypt. "Egypt should have kept its channels open to all parties," said Shukri.

Mr Shukri expressed his doubts that a war was going to break out soon in the Gulf. "The winning card in President Husayn's hand is the oil—Iraqi oil, Kuwaiti oil and Saudi oil, all of which could be destroyed in the event of war." He said that American, European and Japanese allies would not risk the destruction of their

economies as a result of a Gulf war. "Both parties (Iraq and the United States) will now attempt to make excuses for past actions."

Mr Shukri said that His Majesty King Husayn's speech on Sunday represented the best position which called for an Arab-Arab dialogue as a counterpart to the Iraqi-American dialogue. "Everybody should work for a peaceful solution to all of the regions' conflicts including the Palestinian problem."

Mr Shukri accused the Egyptian government of monopolizing power in Egypt by refusing to offer guarantees to Egyptian opposition parties which would have prevented fraud and ballot rigging. As a result most of the opposition parties boycotted last week's elections which were held to elect members of the People's Council. These elections were held after the Supreme Court negated the results of the previous elections also because of irregularities.

"Today there is no National Democratic Party (the ruling party of President Mubarak)", said Mr Shukri. "If we assume that parties are made up of bases and leaderships organized by programmes and allowed through democracy to get to power, then we can say that the only reason the National Democratic Party exists is because its president is also the republic's President. President Mubarak is the man who appoints the prime minister, the governors and the chief editors of the government newspapers and electronic media and he is the man who has been ruling for the last ten years by the emergency law."

Mr Shukri claims that his party won over 40 per cent of the seats in the elections of 1987, but rigging and falsifying the results cost them 18 seats. Today with the Islamic alliance on their side they are the biggest opposition party to be followed by Al Wafd Party, the oldest political party in Egypt.

Mr Shukri warned that while there was no indication that a civil war or mass unrest would break out in Egypt as a result of President Mubarak's policies, "the Egyptian people are becoming extremely anxious." "Those who think they could rule Egypt by increasing the number of internal security police and by persecuting others are mistaken," said Mr Shukri. "That is why we boycotted the elections, so that they listen to reason. We want true democracy where the people can say their mind and participate in solving the country's problems."

Need for International Conference 'Legitimate'

JN1412105390 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH
in Arabic 12 Dec 90 p 6

[Editorial: "International Conference... Legitimate Demand"]

[Text] Yesterday's talks between Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and President Bush coincided with an ongoing UN Security Council debate of a draft resolution proposing the convocation of an international conference on the Palestine question. The council postponed

a vote on the resolution in case it was vetoed by the United States—a development that could have had negative repercussions in the region.

It would not have been the first time the United States vetoed an anti-Israel resolution. It did, however, abstain from voting on a recent occasion, and before that voted for the resolution condemning Israel's handling of the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre—in itself a positive step that perhaps underlies the resolution being considered by the Council. The rationale being presented by the United States against the resolution is its concern that its passage be construed as establishing a linkage between the Middle East problem and the Gulf crisis, especially since the idea of linkage originated with the Iraqi president as one of his diplomatic maneuvers since his Kuwait mess began. But maneuvering is one thing and reality is quite another: The idea of the international conference long predates the criminal invasion of Kuwait, having been an upshot of the glorious October 1973 War and subsequent activity to promote a settlement; since then it has never been abandoned, except briefly in November 1977.

The international conference idea is right and legitimate; it enjoys widespread international support as well as that of all the parties to the Middle East problem, save Israel. Has the Bush-Shamir meeting produced the line the United States will be adopting on the resolution under consideration? We should know the answer to this questions in the coming few days, if not at today's Council debate.

Al-Shar' Discusses Gulf, U.S. Ties, Security

JN1212193090 Cairo MAYU in Arabic
10 Dec 90 p 2

[Interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] After concluding the third round of meetings between the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, what is your evaluation of the progress made by the tripartite committee on developing relations and coordinating positions among the three countries?

[Al-Shar'] The Cairo meetings, during which we exchanged opinions on the latest developments in the Arab arena, especially the Gulf situation, were very important. The result of this round has been a complete and full agreement among the three countries on the importance of coordination and cooperation amongst them, and this cooperation is not restricted to the present but extends into the future. Our meeting was necessary to deal with the dangerous negative developments in the region resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

These are developments that our countries have agreed to put an end to, and this can only be done through implementing the Arab and international summit resolutions. The Cairo meeting has prepared the opportunity for us to continue and finalize discussions and topics, and we believe that our stands are united on confronting

this crisis because our three countries constitute the solid ground that could protect and maintain Arab rights and the higher interests of the Arab nation.

[Al-Sa'id] Bush's initiative for discussions with Iraq caused some parties to worry that the United States would start giving concessions through these negotiations. What is your view? Are there any reservations on this? Could one say that there is a united and solid view between Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia regarding this initiative?

[Al-Shar'] There are no reservations or sensitivities regarding Bush's initiative, especially since we see it as a way to implement the resolutions of the emergency Arab summit in Cairo on 10 August, and the Security Council resolutions—all of which stipulate that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait without any restrictions or conditions, and that the legitimate government should be restored. This is the first point. Here I can confirm that the positions of our countries—Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia—are one and the same regarding this special initiative. We have been told that the talks between Iraq and the United States will not be negotiations over the resolutions that have been issued. They will open the door for implementing these resolutions, which means Iraq's immediate withdrawal without restrictions or conditions and the return of the legitimate government to Kuwait.

[Al-Sa'id] What if an Arab initiative crops up, which some Arab circles are talking about at the moment? Could one depend on that to find a solution to the crisis?

[Al-Shar'] As I said previously, any initiative called for by any Arab side will not serve Arab goals and will not represent the Arab solution so long as it does not proceed from the emergency Arab summit resolution of last August. Once again, I say that any individual proposal will be stillborn if it is not within the framework of the Arab League. This is why any individual initiative carries no weight; it would have no legitimacy.

[Al-Sa'id] Initiatives aside, could a spontaneous relaxation take place in the region?

[Al-Shar'] A spontaneous solution can take place when Iraq withdraws from Kuwait immediately and when the legitimate government returns there.

[Al-Sa'id] If the Gulf crisis is resolved peacefully and matters return to normal in the region, one is inclined to ask—in light of the experience we have had—who is the best party to curb any threat to the region and its security and future?

[Al-Shar'] Syria, Egypt, and the Arab Gulf states constitute a very important weight to be reckoned with politically, economically, and militarily. Hence we believe that cooperation and coordination among the three states—Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia—constitute a guarantee not only of the security of the Arab states in the Gulf region, but also of overall pan-Arab security.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that you agree with the view of President Husni Mubarak, regarding special security arrangements in the region, when he said that the security of the region is that of its states and cannot be brought in from abroad?

[Al-Shar'] Yes, I agree with President Mubarak on this point.

[Al-Sa'id] Can we build on that to call for the establishment of what is termed a regional front comprising the Gulf states, in addition to Egypt and Syria?

[Al-Shar'] It is more correct to say that these three states—Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia—constitute solid ground on which we can build everything that would maintain Arab security and the security of the Gulf states in particular. This would give a serious warning to whoever attempts to threaten the security of these states or tries to carry out another adventure like Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

[Al-Sa'id] It is being said that Israel recently warned the United States that if it does not take measures against Iraq—that is, to destroy Iraq's military power—Israel will have to take military steps by itself against Iraq. If this takes place, will Syria be indifferent?

[Al-Shar'] During the third round of foreign ministers' meetings in Cairo we held discussions and asserted the need to implement the emergency Cairo summit resolutions, and to implement fully the UN Security Council resolutions that demand full withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government. As for Israel, we declared earlier that, in the event of any aggression against Iraq by Israel, we will certainly side with Iraq. However, the current problem remains the fact that Iraq has attacked an Arab state, not Israel. Our fundamental task is to give sufficient attention to the removal of aggression as soon as possible. I believe the best way to achieve this is for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait without preconditions and for the legitimate government return to Kuwait to exercise its duties there.

[Al-Sa'id] Why does the Gulf crisis seem to be a U.S. problem and why is it that the United States is controlling the situation in the region—whether peacefully or militarily—so much that it appears as the sole actor in the area? Meanwhile we Arabs are satisfied with reacting, nothing more?

[Al-Shar'] This is not true. Our role is not confined to reacting. We have our own role and effective contributions. We have an important say in the region and on the Arab nation's interests and security. Certainly, however, the United States has a prominent international role known and felt by everybody. However, this does not at all mean that we do not have an effective role. Events have proved that we actually have a very effective role. In fact, the Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi meeting confirms—and will confirm further in the future—that we are a political, economic, security, and military weight to be reckoned with in the region.

[Al-Sa'id] Considering that Syria has unequivocally advised against resorting to war, I wonder if there is talk about the scope of destruction if military action were launched against Iraq? Are there guarantees that Israel will remain outside the circle of the conflict?

[Al-Shar'] We hope there will be a peaceful solution and we are working toward that end, provided that this solution is based on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the emergency Arab summit in Cairo as well as Security Council resolutions. We hope that we will not reach the point of military option. As I have said, we want a peaceful solution and we are working toward this end based on implementing the resolutions of the Arab summit and international resolutions.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the EC initiative to negotiate with Iraq? This initiative was announced and talks will take place in Rome after Tariq 'Aziz's return from his talks in the United States. Are you not concerned that there might be a possibility of concessions in these negotiations?

[Al-Shar'] The Security Council permanent members and the EC countries have told us that they will not negotiate over the Security Council resolutions, but that they are going to open a dialogue and a window for the implementation of these resolutions through the meetings that will take place between Iraqi officials and EC or U.S. representatives.

[Al-Sa'id] After the conclusion of the third session of meetings of the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, is there going to be an imminent summit among the leaders of the three countries?

[Al-Shar'] The idea of a summit was not discussed. The three of us, however, have in mind that when we conclude our discussions and consultations on the ideas that are the subject of constant discussion, there will be a need for a tripartite summit.

[Al-Sa'id] How can we characterize Syrian-U.S. relations after the recent Bush-al-Asad meeting last month in Geneva? Can we say that normalization of relations is under way? Were you promised any special financial assistance? It has been said that Syria has benefited neither financially nor politically from its support for the anti-Iraq Gulf alliance.

[Al-Shar'] First of all, we have absolutely not discussed economic issues with the American side in the hope that America would promise us financial assistance; however, a discussion of the overall issues of the region was held. We also discussed U.S.-Syrian relations. We are satisfied with the outcome of the meeting, its atmosphere, and what we heard from the U.S. side on all the issues that Presidents al-Asad and Bush discussed, whether the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Gulf crisis and the need to end it peacefully, or the satisfaction over developments in Lebanon. We also considered the importance of the tripartite activity undertaken by Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia to defend the basic interests of the Arab nation. Therefore, the normalization you are talking about is

definitely true; the two presidents could not discuss all these important issues unless normalization of relations was there.

New Assembly Speaker Promises Free Expression

*NC1312192990 Cairo MENA in English 1913 GMT
13 Dec 90*

[Text] Cairo, Dec. 13 (MENA)—New People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur said his work during the term of his chairmanship of the assembly would pivot on respect of the Constitution and regulations. In his first statement following his election as a speaker of the People's Assembly, Dr. Surur said he would give full chance for all trends to express themselves in the Assembly and manage the discussion positively. He stressed the necessity of cooperation with the government for enacting the laws of concern to the public, pointing out that the government should be given enough time for studying the new bills before referring them to the Assembly. He added that the Egyptians elected their representatives and "I assure the people that their representatives will fully exercise their legislative rights" regarding control over the government and enacting laws.

Sidqi Chairs Ministerial Economic Group Meeting

*NC1312110190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi chaired a Ministerial Economic Group meeting this morning.

The conferees continued discussing the progress of negotiations with the IMF and World Bank delegations. This precedes the drafting of the joint letter, according to which Egypt and the IMF will sign a final agreement during the next weeks to boost the Egyptian economy and prospects of economic and social development.

Libya

Pan-Arab Conferences Condemn Chad 'Kidnapping'

*LD1312221690 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[“Statement by the Masses of the Pan-Arab Conferences in the Great Jamahiriyyah”—read by announcer]

[Text] After observing the piratical actions of the U.S. Administration, unequalled even by those of the Middle Ages, in kidnapping Libyan Arab citizens from Ndjamena and transporting them against their will to unknown destinations with the collusion of the French forces in Chad, the masses of the Pan-Arab Conferences in the Great Jamahiriyyah announce their condemnation of this barbaric action, which contradicts the most basic human rights.

As they strongly condemn this criminal action, which represents state terrorism, the masses of the Pan-Arab Conferences in the Great Jamahiriya put themselves at the disposal of the historic leader of the great al-Fatah revolution to implement the death order and liberate the Libyan Arab citizens who were kidnapped by the CIA with the cooperation of France, and decide the following:

1. To call on the UN Security Council and the United Nations to adopt an immediate resolution on releasing the Libyan Arab citizens and returning them to their families in the Great Jamahiriya,

2. To appeal to the concerned international organizations and the OAU to quickly intervene to protect those citizens and to adopt immediate and deterrent measures against this terrorism, which is a blatant violation of the freedom and dignity of Africa and the countries of the region,

3. The masses of the Pan-Arab Conferences in the Great Jamahiriya reserve the legitimate right to answer this foolish and barbaric action in any way which it considers most deterring and painful.

Those who start aggression deserve what they get.

March forward, and may the revolutionary struggle continue until we rub America's nose in the dust.

[Signed] Masses of the Pan-Arab Conferences in the Great Jamahiriya.

Senegalese Group Condemns Habre Move

LD1312222990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 13 Dec 90

["Statement by the International Conference of the Senegalese in the Municipality of Tripoli," dated 13 December—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate: The masses of the International Conference of the Senegalese have closely monitored the instability in Chad, and constantly called on the Chadian people to close ranks in order to stop imperialism and Zionism from exploiting their divisions. However, Habre's tribal regime carried on in its course without paying any heed to this call.

The Senegalese International Conference has always hastened to support the Chadian people in order to remove that nightmare from the sacred soil of Chad; and this has actually happened in response to the will of the great Chadian people led by Idriss Deby.

The movements of the expelled Habre among the African capitals have recently enabled him to infiltrate Senegalese soil at the direction of U.S. imperialism and French colonialism. He entered Senegal without the knowledge and permission of the Senegalese people.

Therefore, the masses of the Senegalese International Conference inform all free men in the world that Habre's entry into Senegal has nothing to do with the free people of Senegal who have always established fraternal and amicable relations with the Libyan Arab people led by the international leader, Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi.

As it condemns the imperialist machines behind Habre's entry into Senegal, the Senegalese international conference strongly calls for evicting Habre from Senegal at all cost.

Those who have been unjust will suffer for it.

March forward. Al-Fatih forever. May the revolutionary struggle continue.

[signed] The secretariat of the Senegalese International Conference.

Morocco

Unions Renew Call For 14 Dec General Strike

LD1312135490 Rabat MAP in English 1219 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec. 13 (MAP)—The Democratic Labor Confederation (CDT-socialist) and the General Union for Moroccan Workers (UGTM-close to the nationalist conservative Istiqlal Party) renewed attachment to the constitutional character of their call to a general strike on Dec. 14.

In a joint communique circulated at the end of a meeting Wednesday in Casablanca of the two trade unions executive bureaus devoted to 'following up the daily developments of the situation', the CDT and the UGTM say they are for an earnest and serious dialogue but without setting the postponement of the strike as a prerequisite.

The two major trade unions which assert that strike will not affect emergency services call on 'the whole labor masses' to go on strike in 'a climate of order, calm and responsibility'.

Kuwaiti Delegation Explains Stand on Invasion

LD1312135990 Rabat MAP in English 1224 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec. 13 (MAP)—Iraq alone can avoid the catastrophe threatening the Arab world in case the military option is resorted to settle the Gulf crisis, former speaker of the Kuwaiti Parliament 'Abd al-'Aziz Sa'dun said here Wednesday.

Sa'dun who is currently visiting Morocco at the head of a delegation of Kuwaiti MPs said at a news conference that no Arab country backs the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. As to the deployment of foreign forces in the region, he said the peoples of the region including the Kuwaiti one were compelled to resort to these forces to protect their security. Now, if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, there would no longer be any reason justifying this presence.

Members of the delegation and Kuwait's former ambassador to Rabat and to Baghdad 'Abd al-'Aziz Sara'ui paid tribute to Morocco's stand regarding the invasion of Kuwait. He said the Kuwaiti people are for an Arab mediation, within the context of UN resolutions on the Gulf crisis. To a question of Iraqi-U.S. dialog, he said such a dialog must be held in an international context, for the U.S. action is part of the UN resolutions.

The Kuwaiti delegation members denied the existence of contacts with Iraq and renewed that Kuwait will not make the slightest concession.

The delegation started its visit to Morocco Tuesday to explain the Kuwaiti people's stand regarding the Iraqi invasion of the emirate.

Sudan

Defense Official Meets Saudi Ambassador

EA1312150890 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Dec (SUNA)—State minister at the Ministry of Defence, Major General 'Uthman M. al-Hasan, met here yesterday the Saudi ambassador to Khartoum, Muhammad al-Khimleshi. The meeting, which comes in the framework of the revolution's keenness to boost relations with friendly and sisterly countries, discussed means of boosting bilateral relations in all fields, and reviewed also the relations between the two countries' armies in the fields of qualification and exchange of visits.

Egyptian Envoy Examines Bilateral Cooperation

NC1312131290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0847 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 13 Dec (MENA)—Colonel Salah-al-Din Karrar, member of the Sudanese Salvation Revolution Command Council and chairman of the Revolution Command Council's Economic Committee, has affirmed his country's eagerness to activate and enhance Egyptian-Sudanese relations. He welcomed the Egyptian investments in joint ventures that will benefit the two peoples of the [Nile] valley. [passage omitted]

He said this during his meeting with Egypt's Ambassador in Khartoum Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haq. They also discussed the continuous coordination to promote the eternal ties between Sudan and Egypt and ways to eliminate all obstacles impeding these ties, as well as the ideal way to strengthen these relations.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Khartoum today, Dr. Jad-al-Haq said that agreement was reached at the meeting to renew the Sudanese-Egyptian trade protocol for 1991, estimated at 300 million accounting dollars. [passage omitted]

Dr. Jad-al-Haq said that, out of Egypt's desire to encourage horizontal and vertical agricultural expansion

in Sudan, the Egyptian Government has decided to purchase in dollars all of the produce from the joint company for agricultural integration to help the company get hard currency revenues from its exports.

The Egyptian ambassador said that agreement was reached to encourage Egyptian investment capital for another joint agricultural project, designed to give impetus to the agricultural integration between the two countries.

The ambassador noted that both Egypt and Sudan are eager to continue the Jonglei Canal project because it will benefit the two fraternal peoples in horizontal and vertical agricultural expansion through the procurement of four billion cubic feet [of water] in the first stage, increasing to eight billion cubic feet in the second and third stages. He asserted that both the Egyptian and Sudanese sides are hoping to complete the project, 70 percent of which has already been completed since peace was established in southern Sudan.

Dr. Jad-al-Haq said they also dealt with the reasons Egypt Air reduced its flights to Khartoum from seven to three per week. He added that there was agreement to discuss a formula to encourage the company to increase its flights to seven or even more to service the continuous dense traffic between the two fraternal countries.

RCC Official Briefed by Chadian Envoy

EA1212120290 Khartoum SUNA in French 0905 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Dec (SUNA)—Brigadier General 'Uthman Ahmad Hassan, the Revolution Command Council member and head of the Political committee, on Tuesday 11 December met his excellency the Chadian ambassador to Sudan, who informed him about the latest developments in the situation in Chad. Brig. Gen. Hassan, for his part, reaffirmed that Sudan respects the wishes and options of the Chadian people and expressed his wish that unity and stability should prevail in Chad so that it realizes achievements and prosperity.

Radio SPLA on Plan To Shoot Down UN Plane

EA1312132290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] sources inside Grinti army garrison in Wau town have sent an urgent message to Radio SPLA that the junta plans to send Major General, PSC, [Passed Staff College] Andrew Makur, the governor of Bahr al-Ghazal, to Rumbek along with UN relief workers using a UN relief plane. Meanwhile, the National Islamic Front [NIF] commander in Rumbek has been ordered to shoot down this plane. By this devilish plan, the junta hopes to achieve the following 1) eliminate the governor whom they accuse of being uncooperative; 2) blame the SPLA for shooting down a UN relief plane and thereby having

a media (?event); 3) divert public and army attention from their mediocre performance and disastrous defeat in Western Equatoria.

By this announcement, the SPLA here clears itself in advance of unfortunate impending incident by informing all concerned that it is the junta, not the SPLA, that is going to shoot down the plane. We condemn in the strongest of terms this unscrupulous play with human lives. In Rumbek, Maj. Gen. PSC, Hashim knows that Rumbek is under tight siege, that SPLA trenches are only some 500 meters from their trenches, and that the airport is similarly under tight siege. Maj Gen. Hashim is unable to land a plane to evacuate his own wounded soldiers that are now rotting away in Rumbek. Yet the NIF junta callously intends to send governor and UN Relief workers there and to shoot them down. This devilish plan must be condemned by all those who have a trace of consciousness. It is despicable.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Cancels UGTT Debts to State

LD1312142290 Rabat MAP in English 1302 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Carthage, Tunisia, Dec. 13 (MAP)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali Wednesday decided to cancel a considerable part of the debts owed to the state by the General Trade Union of Tunisian Workers [UGTT].

The decision was made to help the union address its role as a national organization, Tunisian News Agency 'TAP' said.

Ben Ali was informed on the situation of the members of the union during his talks here Wednesday with Mohamed Ghannouchi, Moncer Rouissi and Ismail Sahbani, respectively minister of economy and finance, minister of social affairs and the union's secretary general, 'TAP' added.

UGTT Chief Reviews Union's Achievements

LD1312202590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The proceedings of the national council of the General Trade Union of Tunisian Workers [UGTT] began at the Conference Palace in the capital this morning under the chairmanship of Mr. Ismail Sahbani, the union's secretary general, and with the participation of the members of the executive bureau and a large number of workers' delegates from various parts of the country.

In his opening address, Mr. Sahbani stressed that one of the first tasks of trade unionists is the strengthening of their unity, the deepening of the spirit of brotherhood among them, and the preservation of the autonomy of their organization. He added that there is another task awaiting them in future trade union action, namely to

continue supporting and backing the model of society laid down in the 7 November declaration, particularly with regard to organizing life in society on democratic foundations. He then referred to the response of the trade union activists to the principles formed in this field with a view to endeavoring to lay down the foundations of this society, contributing to shaping it, and enabling it to meet the conditions which will allow it to shape itself and gain importance.

Mr. Sahbani also said that the UGTT is anxious to see justice achieved in this society, which should be free from all causes of tension and which seeks stability, growth, and better production in the interest of everyone. He added: We as trade union activists have sensed a good disposition from the political leadership in the country to provide all the conditions for national reconciliation, especially at the social level.

The union's secretary general then reviewed the gains made by the organization during this time, first of all in preserving and strengthening the Tunisian trade union movement, and second in achieving the union's autonomy from the government at all levels and from all political parties; this has become a tangible fact. There is a third gain, for which the union had to cross several hurdles, that is, democracy within the trade-union. Thus, the union has succeeded in recovering the position it held nationally at the social and political levels as a political force working for social progress and democratic liberties. Furthermore, the union has won a moral victory by regaining the workers' trust and the trust of public opinion in the country.

Mr. Sahbani then talked about trade union activities and the improvement of the workers' standards of living through social negotiations [as heard]. He also referred to the status held by the union in the Maghreb, the Arab nation, and the world and its success particularly in the creation of the Trade Union of Maghreban Workers.

After the opening speech, the proceedings continued in closed session.

Disagreement Reported in Ennahdha Movement

LD1312192190 Paris International Service
in French 1830 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] In Tunisia, we have learned that dozens of Islamic fundamentalists of the Ennahdha movement have been arrested. This has taken place during the last few weeks in the main towns of the south of the country. According to the authorities, those arrested are linked to an inquiry into attacks which have already led to the imprisonment of 70 Islamic fundamentalists. These arrests occur at a time when disagreement exists between the two wings of the movement. In fact, Rachid Ghanouchi, the current leader of the Ennahdha movement, sees his leadership challenged by one of his main deputies, who criticizes his pro-Iraqi position in the Gulf crisis.

Kuwait

Paper Views Saddam's Reasons for Hostages' Release

PM1112161690 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic
8 Dec 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Beware of Hostage Game"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] Once again Saddam Husayn has played the hostage card, it being the last fig leaf with which he is trying, imaginatively, to conceal the wrongness of his evil occupation of Kuwait.

But why did the dictator of Iraq suddenly announce his decision to release all the hostages? What base intentions lie concealed, as usual, behind it?

Clearly three main reasons prompted the ruler of Baghdad to take this step, which we must deal with very cautiously and vigilantly.

First, he recently realized that the hostages no longer represented a trump card that can be used to put pressure on the world's states. The Security Council resolution on the use of force and President Bush's assertions about his serious intention to turn to the war option if peace efforts fail—all this reflected a definite fact, namely, that the international alliance is prepared to engage in war despite the hostages' presence in Iraq and Kuwait and despite the detention of some of them as human shields at strategic Iraqi sites. Thus the hostage card has failed to exert Iraqi influence and pressure on the international community to cause it to refrain from the military confrontation resolution or to postpone its resorting to it. This means that Saddam's decision to release the hostages was made after he became certain that their remaining in his possession would bring no benefit, but would, rather, affect him to the very core.

The second purpose of the Iraqi dictator's step—and this is the most important one to him—is to try to influence his upcoming dialogue with the U.S. Administration and the EC by displaying deceptive peaceful intentions, by trying to divert attention from the principal issue—namely, a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy—and by trying to improve his ugly image before world public opinion.

The third reason is that the Iraqi murderer has started the countdown for a retreat, especially since his decision to release the hostages came two days after his meeting with his Arab agent allies, who apparently conveyed to him their concerns about the U.S. and the world's seriousness about implementing the Security Council resolutions, even by force. This is because they realize that his expected downfall and collapse would entail their own downfall and collapse.

These are the motives and intentions behind the blood-thirsty Iraqi ruler's decision to release the hostages. They

are absurd intentions which require from us full awareness and extensive political and informational moves in order to confront them. We said so two days ago when we stressed that the period of dialogue for peace dialogue which will continue until 15 January represents a serious and crucial turning point in the Gulf crisis, which must be overcome without any concessions or bargaining. But what makes us feel confident is that so far world reactions to Iraq's decision to release the hostages have been characterized by a full awareness of Saddam's tendentious intentions. This is why they are stressing to him the need to implement all the UN Security Council resolutions, which include the decision to release the hostages. This is because all these resolutions constitute a single, indivisible whole, especially with regard to a complete withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of legitimacy, and the payment of compensation for the heavy damages inflicted on it.

Anyhow, if the hostage release card is Saddam's first play in the present peace dialogue stage, it will not be the last. And we must expect numerous maneuvers and evasions and must be prepared—both we and the international community—to confront them, especially since, thank God, we are now very close to our sacrosanct objective—the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimacy.

Oman

Algerian President Bendjedid Arrives 14 Dec

NC1412141690 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpts] His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid arrived in Oman this afternoon on a two-day official visit to the Sultanate during which he will meet with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to discuss matters of common concern in light of recent area developments.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id was in the forefront of those who received His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid at the sultan's private airport. [passage omitted]

His excellency the Algerian president is accompanied by an official delegation comprising His Excellency Sid Ahmed Ghazali, foreign minister; His Excellency (Muhammad Shahnun), presidential adviser for political affairs; and His Excellency Dr. (Bashir Khaldun), Algerian ambassador to the Sultanate. His excellency is also accompanied by a large information delegation. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister's Visits to Italy, Germany

WA1312180090

For reportage on the visits by Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud to Italy and Germany, including reports on his talks with Italian Prime Minister Andreotti and Foreign Minister de Michelis, and with

German Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher, please see the relevant sections of the 13 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

United Arab Emirates

Prime Minister, Saudi Defense Minister Confer

NC1312132090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1125 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Dubayy, 13 Dec (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates Vice President and Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum received here this afternoon Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY said that the two officials exchanged views on the current situation and on the existing fraternal bilateral relations.

Paper Says Bush Dialogue Offers 'Last Chance'

JN1112213790 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
3 Dec 90 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's recent initiative to hold dialogue with Baghdad for the peaceful implementation of the UN Security Council resolution is undoubtedly the last chance to avoid the tragedies of war. The head of the Iraqi regime should not waste this opportunity if he is concerned for the safety of his people and their homeland.

The U.S. initiative has put the Baghdad ruler to the test; the test of how genuine his concern is for Iraq and its people. Any sincere leader should do his best to avoid involving his country and people in adventures with menacing consequences, like Saddam's adventure of

invading Kuwait, which is being opposed by huge international forces that have mustered all the expertise they need, not to mention the most sophisticated military technology.

The Iraqi people had more than their share of suffering during the war with Iran. During this war, huge human and material potentials were wasted that the Baghdad ruler should have preserved for development, construction, progress, and prosperity—which the Iraqi people need now more than ever before.

From this premise, the Iraqi people now need someone who will show them kindness and not someone who risks their future in a perilous adventure without a second thought, and without regard for humanitarian feelings or civilized values.

Any reasonable man knows that the confrontation in the Gulf into which Saddam has pushed his people is 10 times worse, in terms of the dangers, tragedies, and destruction it entails, than the previous confrontation, which ended without achieving any objective and without any consideration for the tens of thousands of victims and material losses sustained by Iraq.

While we follow the developments in the region with all the attention they deserve and the care that must be given to the region's security and stability, the independence of its countries, and the freedom of their people, we ask God Almighty to guide the steps of all those concerned toward a sound path and to prevent them from excesses they will regret later.

Spanish Parliamentary Delegation Leaves 8 Dec

NC0812170790 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT
8 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 8 (WAKH)—A Spanish parliamentary delegation led by Juan Jose, the speaker of the Spanish parliament, left here today after a visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates] during which it met with president Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Last Evacuation Flight for Americans 13 Dec

JN1312141790 Amman Domestic Service in English
1205 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The last scheduled evacuation flight of Americans out of Iraq and Kuwait was flown today with the last remaining Embassy personnel in Kuwait expected on board. Britain's mission, the last in Kuwait, was being withdrawn following the evacuation of British nationals who chose to leave the country to go back to Britain.

A U.S. chartered Boeing 707 flew to Kuwait today to evacuate Americans who wished to leave, including remaining embassy personnel. Ambassador Nathaniel Howell was expected to be on board the Iraqi Airways flight with three other diplomats and an undetermined number of other U.S. citizens.

Embassy officials in Baghdad said the plane was to return to Baghdad, where its passengers would join other Americans for an afternoon flight to Germany. The Embassy had no estimate on the number of Americans or other passengers who will fly out of the country today, in what was said to be the final charter flight carrying foreign nationals since President Saddam Husayn said a week ago that all foreigners could leave if they wanted to.

Britain is also pulling its ambassador and consul out of its embassy in Kuwait and the Foreign Office said that Ambassador Michael Weston and Consul (Larry Banks) are being temporarily withdrawn. A department spokeswoman said yesterday that Mr. Weston and Mr. (Banks) were asked to prepare to leave in the next week, adding that Britain will no longer be able to provide assistance thereafter to British nationals, and therefore, strongly urge any remaining British national wanting to leave to do so soon. Britain, like the United States, left its diplomats in Kuwait to oversee the welfare of its citizens trapped in the country. The last Britons wishing to leave Kuwait and Iraq were expected home by early next week. The foreign office estimated fewer than 100 Britons were left in Kuwait, and about 200 in Iraq. It said some long-term residents of Kuwait chose to stay.

No more planes have been chartered to bring home the remaining British nationals. It was expected they would fly out with other foreign nationals. Britain's mission is the last Western embassy to close. Most other diplomats were gradually pulled out. Britain's Ambassador to Baghdad Harold Walker was to return to London today to brief Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn ordered all foreign embassies in Kuwait closed by August 25, but several remained open.

124 Foreign Nationals Leave Baghdad 13 Dec

JN1312192590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—One hundred twenty four foreign nationals of different Western and Asian nationalities who had been the guests of the Iraqi people left Baghdad this evening for home. They departed on a special plane in

implementation of President Saddam Husayn's order to allow Iraq's guests to remain in Iraq or leave.

In statements to INA, the departing Iraqi guests thanked the Iraqi Government and people for the good treatment and hospitality they had been given during their stay.

They described President Saddam Husayn's order to allow all the Iraqi people's guests to leave, or stay if they wished, as a great humanitarian act that reflects Iraq's desire for a comprehensive peace in the region and to avert the dangers of a devastating war.

Ministry on Dates for Baker, 'Aziz Meetings

JN1312160490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—Reacting to American false claims about setting dates for the meetings proposed by the American President in Washington and Baghdad, a Foreign Ministry spokesman made the following statement to INA:

The United States, which proposed a meeting between the Iraqi foreign minister and the U.S. President in Washington, and sending the American secretary of state to see His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad, is contradicting itself on setting dates for the two sessions.

The U.S. President suggested an open date from 10 December for the Iraqi foreign minister's visit to Washington. We proposed 17 December for the Washington meeting, and the Americans counterproposed 20, 21, or 22 December, or 3 January for the Baghdad meeting. We found the dates proposed by the Americans for the Baghdad meeting unsuitable for us, and so we suggested 12 January for the Baghdad meeting, but the U.S. Administration refused. So we proposed that the U.S. Administration set the date for the Washington meeting, adding that the foreign minister would commit himself to it, provided we set the date for the Baghdad meeting, subject to the U.S. State Secretary consenting to this logical proposal. But the Americans insisted on the previous dates set by them, which happened to be unsuitable for us, as we have communicated to them.

The spokesman said the U.S. Administration, which is playing a transparent propaganda game to mislead public opinion and the American Congress about its intention to attack Iraq, is going out of its way to make an issue out of a small matter.

The spokesman said that Iraq, which had sought a serious dialogue with the United States, has proved its goodwill, while the U.S. Administration prevaricates in a manner betraying a premeditated intention to use the meetings as a pretext to launch aggression.

The spokesman emphasized that Iraq will not allow anyone to set the date for his meeting with its president.

It is up to Iraq to set the appropriate date for visits to its capital and talks with its president, and the United States enjoys the same right.

AL-'IRAQ Comments

JN0912093390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT
9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ affirms in an article published today that Leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative remains the springboard and basis for any constructive dialogue aimed at achieving peace throughout the region.

The paper indicates that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's official statement yesterday, which proposed dates for the Iraqi-U.S. talks in both Washington and Baghdad, confirms the firm position of the Iraqi leadership and people, which rejects dialogue with preconditions, because such a dialogue will not bring the desired results with regard to the Gulf situation.

AL-'IRAQ says that Leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative is the logical formula through which the Arab nation has found itself reviving its humanitarian role in resolving regional problems. This is because this nation sees Saddam Husayn as an Arab leader ready to engage in a crucial battle and fight for the restoration of the usurped Palestinian rights, the restoration of peace in Lebanon, and also for the return of the Golan, just as he managed to recapture Kuwait, the branch which the Zionist plots almost devoured after it was severed from its root, the paper adds.

The paper affirms that Iraq's firm and principled position will remain a pan-Arab and national position dictated by its pan-Arab affiliation, and not by U.S.-Zionist quarters. This is in contrast with the positions of the regimes led by people like Fahd and Husni, the paper concludes.

Saddam Chairs Meeting, Rejects 'Foreign Hegemony'

JN1312163790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1541 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stressed that our principles do not accept foreign hegemony over Arab oil and the Arab homeland, and do not accept the Zionist entity's continued occupation the land of Arabs and Palestine.

Chairing the Council of Ministers meeting today, his excellency said: For this reason, the enemies are clearly saying that they do not want Iraq to be a strong economic, military, or political force that has a united people standing behind their leadership and believing in it. This is because they see in all this an unacceptable danger in the region.

His excellency added: The battle against us did not begin in August. Plotting against us began before that date

because of our pan-Arab position; because of our position on Palestine, namely that it is Arab and that it should return to its people; and because of our honorable national position, namely that we want to exist just as others have the right to exist.

President Saddam Husayn added: The battle has now become clear. Zionism, America, and the traitorous reactionaries are in the same trench and are all working together. His excellency said: This clarity is more of a comfort to us than having mixed trenches, where losses become very heavy and the enemy is not very clear.

The president added: We want peace, we are trying to achieve peace and are making efforts to avoid reaching a stage in which we brandish our swords in the faces of one another. However, if the enemies want to push matters toward a military battle, we will win this battle with God's support and will walk over their dead bodies and step on their heads. God be praised, we have faith in our hearts, because we are in the right and God the Almighty is with us.

The president added: If it is God Almighty's will that we fight this battle—and this is an honor for us—so be it, to cleanse the Arab homeland of all this rottenness.

The Council of Ministers discussed issues on its agenda and adopted appropriate decisions on them.

Kuwait's Return to Iraq 'Indisputable' Fact

JN1212095290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0828 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that Kuwait's return to Iraq is an indisputable eternal and irreversible fact.

Commenting today on press and news media reports on an alleged Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the paper, which expresses the views of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Any party that speaks about possible Iraqi concessions that would undermine the essence of its principle of not relinquishing any of its rights, is actually speaking out of an intentional subversive logic.

The paper describes Kuwait's return to Iraq as a great historical achievement in the interest of the Arabs and Muslims. It notes that the most significant achievement is the ending of the abnormal situation that was represented by turning Kuwait into a center of plotting against Iraq and the Arab nation and an advanced base for the American intelligence and its schemes.

U.S. Wants To Turn Third World Into 'Slaves'

JN1412095390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT
14 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has emphasized that Iraq's battle with all the wicked ones, headed by the United States, acquires its paramount importance from being a confrontation, in the context of

current international circumstances, in which the United States is trying to secure by force its interests in the world and give them predominance over the interests of others, particularly Japan and Europe, after the disappearance of the Soviet Union's international role with the end of the cold-war era, which unleashed the spirit of imperialist domination toward a unilateral treatment of the international arena.

In an editorial published today, the paper says that everything that the U.S. Administration is doing in terms of international trusteeship and suppression—beginning with its reckless behavior in Panama and Grenada and ending with the big-stick policy it adopted in the so-called Gulf crisis, not only toward the other party in the confrontation but also toward its allies for whom it left no chance to adopt any position different from its own—proves the true intentions of this policy.

The newspaper describes the ongoing battle between Iraq and the U.S. forces of aggression as a battle between freedom and suppression, between peoples and international dictatorship, stressing that the only path open to the nation is to achieve victory in this battle, God willing.

The paper stresses that the triumph of the forces of evil, God forbid, would lead the world into an age of dictatorship in which the U.S. President will be a world dictator and the Third World nations would become slaves. Mankind would then witness a dark age, and the future of humanity would be shrouded in the darkness of an overall domination—making the old colonialist era seem more tolerable by comparison.

Concluding, the paper says: On an Arab level, it is not difficult for us to conceive of the divisions and destruction that would befall the Arabs and pan-Arab aspirations. Neither is it difficult to imagine the extent that the Zionist expansionist scheme against Arab territories would reach, and in what corner the Palestine question would be.

Soviet Foreign Policy Seen Submissive to U.S.

*JN1312121790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT
13 Dec 90*

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has criticized the remarks made by Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR representative at the United Nations, to the effect that Moscow authorized President Bush and his secretary of state to act on behalf of the Soviet Union concerning the implementation of Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

In an article today entitled "Deputization," the paper says that the statement shows a regrettable aspect of the transformation of Soviet policy—a transformation that generally shows retreat before the escalating U.S. hegemony, or more precisely, submission to it.

The paper adds: If we link this statement to the Soviet support for U.S. procrastination regarding the Palestine question in the Security Council, we will draw the conclusion that concessions may begin with a single step, but will ultimately lead to the abandonment of everything, including principles. [passage omitted]

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: The entire affair does not arouse only regret, but also sorrow mixed with bitterness and astonishment.

U.S. Ultimately Seeks Control of Europe, Japan

*JN1412120790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT
14 Dec 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said that the Bush Administration, which has wagered on and depended a great deal on what it calls the international alliance, has become convinced with the passage of time that this alliance—which it took great pains to set up—has fallen apart, and that it is fragile and loose.

In an article published here today under the headline "Bush's War and Others' Positions," the paper says that the gap between the U.S. Administration and its allies has indeed widened, especially as each party to this international alliance has its own calculations and stands that are not in harmony with the calculations, approaches, and inclinations of the U.S. Administration—not to mention that these countries are suffering from constitutional and political problems that prevent them from sending their forces to the region.

Concluding its article, the paper asserts that the parties of this alliance have begun to realize that launching war in the Gulf is a U.S. scheme through which the United States primarily aims at controlling Japan and Europe.

U.S. 'Duplicity' At Security Council Examined

*JN1412091090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT
14 Dec 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH today called on the world community to intervene effectively to put an end to U.S. domination of the Security Council.

In its editorial today under the headline "The U.S. Security Council and the Malicious Role," the paper says that the above goal can be realized only through rejecting U.S. pressures and deviations and the threats launched by the Bush Administration—considering the examples and evidence which have now clearly crystallized before the world community of the blatant U.S. duplicity toward the problems of the world, particularly the problems of the Arab nation—especially since the United States, which is using the Security Council to peddle its resolutions, has ignored these problems.

The paper points to the exceptional, feverish efforts undertaken by the United States to secure a series of unjust and unfair resolutions from the Security Council

against Iraq in a serious precedent in international relations. The paper, moreover, notes the exposed maneuvers are being pursued now by the United States to block a resolution on the Palestine question which provides for ensuring one form of protection for the Palestinian Arab people who are suffering under the Zionist occupation, and which supports convening an international peace conference in the Middle East.

The paper adds: In view of the prevalent state of affairs at the Security Council created by this U.S. provocation, the United States will undoubtedly succeed either in totally obstructing the resolution through the use of the veto, or in pursuing maneuvers which lead discussions to a dead end. It may also succeed in diluting the resolution to render it ineffectual and generalized and of no use to the cause of the Palestinian people, and consequently it will become similar to many previous resolutions which were shelved and remained merely ink on paper.

AL-QADISIYAH goes on to say: The double standards and racial discrimination at the Security Council against the Arabs that characterize U.S. security policy—which have clearly crystallized in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis—prompts Iraq, out of its international responsibilities, to warn against the danger of falling into this precipice which the Security Council is heading toward, considering that the Security Council has lost its credibility and the respect of all countries. Moreover, the superpowers at that Council no longer enjoy the trust of the world concerning the resolution of international problems and crises. This situation will permit leeway and justification for world countries to resolve their problems through their own means, which in most cases rest on military methods. Consequently, this would pose a threat to world security and peace, and the law of the jungle would prevail.

The paper explains that the grave injustice that has been inflicted on Iraq, and earlier on Palestine, is clear evidence of the U.S. aggressiveness against the Arabs and the racist U.S. view toward problems of the world in general. The United States has secured the issuance of 12 unjust resolutions against Iraq, thus introducing a grave precedent in international relations. All this took place in record time not exceeding three months, including resolutions on imposing a blockade on Iraq and authorizing the United States to attack it. The United States itself, however, is seen ignoring international will and doing everything possible to block any resolution in the interest of the Palestinian Arab people and to please its ally and protégé—Israel—on the one hand, and to reaffirm its anti-Arab policy on the other.

The paper says: In this regard, we would not be encroaching on future facts if we say that we will not be thrown into desperation—as Bush imagines—because of the procrastination exercised by the United States and some big powers against the Palestine question. On the contrary, this will increase our determination to attain the rights of our Palestinian people and to lift the injustice being imposed on Iraq. This will be done not

through denunciations and protests, which have become useless vis-a-vis this U.S. aggressiveness and racism, but through force—the force of truth which will compel the United States and all big powers to lift their hats in respect whenever the Arab nation, the carrier of the Islamic message, is mentioned.

When it proposed, through its great leader, the 12 August initiative which called for linking the regional problems and resolving them together, Iraq, beside its desire for peace, was aiming to expose the duplicity being exercised by the United States through the UN Security Council. This is what has actually happened. The United States has been stripped of the leaf of legitimacy it claims to bear under the new world order after becoming the sole world power. The crux of the conflict between us—backed by the Arab nation—and the United States has become clear and evident. This conflict will only be settled by the sword of justice brandished by the heroic Iraqi Army while awaiting the crucial battle to cut off the evil and mean U.S. arm, along with the heads of treasonous traitors such as those of agent Fahd and the subservient Husni, who have been exposed by their master Bush and the UN Security Council to whose straw they are clinging to justify their treason and to hide their fear from the inevitable flood.

Baghdad To Strike at 'Any Point' if War Erupts

JN1412093990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0837 GMT
14 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA)—The AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper today asserted that if the Bush administration launches a military aggression on Iraq, it will cost U.S. and allied forces human losses that will start and never end until the Bush-led enemy axis acknowledges the rights of Iraq and the Arab nation.

In an article today, the paper says that in the event of resorting to the military option, U.S. experts have estimated human losses at 30,000-45,000 U.S. soldiers. The paper adds that, in any case, these losses will not stop at the estimates of experts, whatever their basis or motives.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: We would not be telling a secret if we said that the time and arena of the confrontation will not be determined by Bush, the Pentagon, or any similar U.S. military institution, but by a gathering of the faithful, at whose vanguard stands Iraq.

The paper asserts that if war takes place and military aggression against Iraq occurs, we will spare no weapon to face the axis of the enemies and the gathering of the villains, and then, the paper adds, we will have the right to strike at any point, no matter how far it is and regardless of how well fortified or concealed by the enemies.

If this or that happens, the paper concludes, the Bush administration will bear full responsibility for igniting an unjust conflict.

Medicine Blockade Counters 'Noble' UN Goals*JN0812145290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT
8 Dec 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Dec (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has said the medicine and food blockade runs counter to the noble and humanitarian principles and objectives of the United Nations and its agencies.

In letters he sent to a number of health ministers around the world, the minister said: UN Security Council Resolutions 661 and 666, which resulted in banning food and baby milk, contradict the international declaration on the protection of children's rights issued by the World Children's Summit organized by the United Nations in September, and also with the well-known slogan of the World Health Organization—namely health for all by the year 2000—which was adopted by the international conference for preliminary health care in September 1978.

The minister explained that these resolutions have led to the sequestering of shipments of medicine and vaccines for children and mothers, and also for patients with malignant tumors, heart diseases, as well as diabetes and post-organ transplant patients. He said Iraq had paid for these shipments in advance, before these resolutions were issued.

The minister called on the health ministers of the world to raise their voices and support Iraq's children, mothers, and people, and expose the contradictions of the unfair UN Security Council resolutions.

Minister on 'Setting Priorities' in Medicine Use*JN1212215890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[Text] Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has said that the economic blockade imposed by imperialist U.S. and Zionist circles, as well as by their agent and treasonous allies, against the sons of our steadfast people, blocking medical supplies and milk for infants, constitutes an unjust act that contravenes the [words indistinct] and the principles of the international declaration on human rights, which stipulates the protection of children and women during crises and wars. During a meeting with hospital directors and doctors working at health establishments affiliated with the health department of the first governorate [word indistinct], the health minister called for the utmost efforts to foil enemy intentions against Iraq and to break the economic blockade by making rational use of medicines and setting priorities in prescribing drugs to citizens.

Comments on Medical Shipments*JN1312144790 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT
13 Dec 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 13, INA—Iraq's Health Minister Mr. 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has announced

that 164 assignments and shipment of medicines, medicinal and pharmaceutical materials Iraq had formally concluded and paid their prices by hard currency prior to August 2 have been retained at some world ports or returned to its countries of origin. [sentence as received]

In a statement to INA, he has said that 87 assignments have not been shipped till now, 21 shipments from Britain, one from Spain, 10 from Japan, three from France, one from Finland, 12 from America and five from Sweden, in addition to two shipments from Denmark and Taiwan and one from Belgium and Italy and another from United Arab Emirates in addition to 18 assignments from Germany and two from each of Australia, Holland and Poland and one from each of Lebanon and Austria.

The health minister has made it clear that the blockade imposed by the American Administration on the people of Iraq has led to prevent importation of these medicines, vaccines and medical materials into Iraq the matter which resulted in the increase of the proportion of deaths among children and elderly people in addition to hindering the preventative and health programmes all over Iraq. [sentence as received]

The minister has called upon humane organizations, bodies and personalities in the world to interfere in order to lift the blockade being imposed by the American administration on the people of Iraq and offer medicinal support so that to foil this unjust blockade.

Bendjedid Holds Closed Meeting With Saddam*JN1312140890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT
13 Dec 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn visited his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid at his place of residence today.

The president and his brother President Chadli Bendjedid held a closed bilateral meeting and a round of talks on the latest developments in the international situation and the Gulf region.

President Saddam Husayn had lunch with his brother President Chadli Bendjedid at Iraq's guest residence.

Lays Wreath at Monument*JN131214890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT
13 Dec 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid this morning laid a floral wreath on the Martyrs Monument. Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and his delegation read Koranic verses for the souls of Iraq's pure martyrs.

Baghdad Mayor Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid accompanied Chadli Bendjedid, president of fraternal Algeria.

Departs Baghdad 13 Dec

JN1312144290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn accompanied his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid in an official motorcade to the airport, from where he left Baghdad with God's care following an official two-day visit to Iraq. President Saddam Husayn led the delegation seeing him off. [passage omitted]

Earlier, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali met and discussed the Arab situation and coordination between the two fraternal countries on issues of common interest.

President Chadli Bendjedid sent a cable to his brother President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of leaving Iraq. The message reads:

Your Excellency the President and my dear brother: It pleases me, while about to leave Baghdad of the Arabs, to thank you in my own name and on behalf of the accompanying delegation for the generous hospitality and the good fraternal care we have received during our stay in fraternal Iraq. What we have seen and observed in terms of the tangible progress and creative ability of the fraternal Iraqi people increases our pride in Iraq and strengthens our belief that this constitutes a precious Arab achievement and a dear gain that must be protected and safeguarded from the catastrophes of war and in a manner that would serve the region and the entire Arab nation.

The fraternal and profound talks that we held on the very serious situation through which our Arab nation is passing, and on the means to overcome this situation, confirmed a fact that cannot be ignored, namely that we will have no future in this changing new world except through rebuilding Arab ranks and establishing true solidarity among all members of the Arab family based on the mutual respect and legitimacy that protect our peoples everywhere from injustice under all circumstances.

Finally, allow me to thank you and express my appreciation once again. I beseech God Almighty to protect Iraq, the region, and the entire Arab and Islamic nations.

[Signed] Your Brother, Chadli Bendjedid

Polish Peace Group Chairman Arrives on Visit

JN1212211790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—Piotr Sikorski, chairman of the Polish peace organization [name and title as received], arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit of several days to Iraq.

The Polish official was received at the airport by a number of officials of the Iraqi Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization.

Iranian POW Delegation Arrives on Visit 13 Dec

JN1312190690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—An Iranian technical delegation, led by Mahmud Reza Aghamiri [name as received], head of the Iranian POW's Committee, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a several-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Aghamiri said that his visit to Iraq is to coordinate and continue joint discussions between Iraq and Iran on the POW matter.

The delegation was received at the airport by the secretary of the Permanent POW's Committee, a Foreign Ministry representative, and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Bilateral Airport Coordination Resumed With Iran

JN1312114990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi technical delegation headed by the director general of the Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority this morning returned to Baghdad following a four-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In statements to INA, the head of the delegation said the talks held with the Iranian civil aviation official were successful and positive. He said the two sides agreed to coordinate the operations of Basra International Airport and Abadan Airport. It was also agreed to resume telephone and cable communications between [Baghdad's] Saddam International Airport and Tehran Airport.

Ministry Measures To Boost Agriculture Examined

JN1312180490 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 13, INA—The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has recently embarked on many measures to foil the U.S.-led economic blockade against Iraq and to boost agricultural production. A plantation drive has been launched to cut down Iraq's imports of agricultural products and attain self-sufficiency in basic crops.

A report published today by the BAGHDAD OBSERVER says that the drive is headed by President Saddam Husayn who has ordered an increase in the price of wheat, barley, rice and corn purchased by the government from farmers.

Farmers have been given incentives to expand their production to boost the country's national output.

The government has encouraged farmers to increase production of cereals. Facilities other than financial funds have included seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and planting and harvesting machines.

On September 5 the Revolution Command Council (RCC) issued a decree allowing farmers to cultivate lands owned by the state with cereals for five years free of charge. After this period the land would be leased at very low rents.

The government adopted a number of measures to encourage rice plantation. Feasibility reports and land surveys were carried out to assess [?water] supply for rice paddies.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has studied the reserve of animal feed available at poultry projects in order to fairly distribute the raw materials necessary for them. A number of committees have been set up to examine and diagnose animal diseases at an early stage.

More than 233,512 plots of arable land owned by the government have been leased to private farmers.

The state has reclaimed last [as received] areas of land through irrigation projects of al-'Ishaqi, Lower Diyala, Hilla-Kifil, al-Radwaniyah al-Saqlawiyah, Abu-Ghraib, al-Musayyib, al-Suwayrah and Dalmaj, in addition to the giant drainage system of al-Massab al-Aam which is currently underway.

According to the Ministry's statistics, 518,000 tonnes of fertilizers, about 155,000 tonnes of wheat and 39,000 tonnes of barley have been allocated by the Ministry for this winter plantation.

Extensive work is currently underway to establish an efficient drainage system together with levelling work.

It also launched campaigns and despatched teams to remote villages in the country to make people working in agriculture use scientific and up-to-date methods of cultivation. Agricultural and irrigation bodies and farmers unions have been urged to give clear instructions to farmers on the most useful ways to exploit water.

A number of repair workshops were formed for maintenance of agricultural equipment. Other measures included holding seminars for farmers on how to ration water.

On the other hand, the Agricultural Bank increased its loans to farmers by 100 percent to expand the agricultural lands allocated for wheat, barley, corn, rice, soya and potato.

It has also adopted a set of measures to boost the agricultural sector. Among these measures was the allocation of 100 million Iraqi dinars as easy-term loans to farmers and agricultural companies.

The amount covers variety of projects. Some 44 million dinars will be spent on poultry feed plants, cattle and sheep raising and fish farming. During the first half of the current year the bank financed 503 new poultry projects, 31 projects for hatching eggs, 59 fish farms, 42 new projects for cattle cross-breeding and 18 new projects for sheep raising.

Loans given for agricultural equipment were increased. For instance, loans were made available for the purchase of equipment used for growing winter, summer, industrial and other crops. These loans went up and the interest rate fell from five per cent to three per cent.

Loans are given in two instalments with the second to be paid to farmers after completing all the arrangements for cultivation.

Loans are also provided for those who want to set up animal breeding projects for red meat production.

Twenty million dinars was allocated for the agricultural equipment used in the production of seasonal crops while seven million dinars was given as loans to farmers to purchase 126 small tractors and 29 combine harvesters.

Twenty million dinars was allocated for the agricultural equipment used in the production of seasonal crops while seven million dinars was given as loans to farmers to purchase 126 small tractors and 29 combine harvesters.

Some 29 million dinars was spent on a variety of projects such as digging artesian wells. Thousands of wells have been dug to provide water for 20,000 donums. These plots of land were deserted in the past because of lack of water for irrigation.

Out of total of 3,011,000 donums (one donum equals 2,500 meters) covered by irrigation plan, 2,077,000 donums have been reclaimed.

Shamir Discusses Absorption Aid With Baker

TA1312171490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir explained to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that Israel is worried about Saddam Husayn's threats. Secretary Baker replied that Israel is taken into consideration in all the decisions made by the U.S. Administration with regard to the Gulf affairs.

The prime minister also raised Israel's request for aid for immigrant absorption and found his interlocutor most sympathetic. An official of the State Department's Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs will come to Israel next week to look into Israel's needs with regard to the absorption of Soviet immigrants, among other things.

After his meeting with Baker, Mr. Shamir left for New York for a meeting with Jewish leaders, after which he will depart on his way back to Israel.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 13 December carries a report by Washington correspondent Qeren Neubach, who notes that upon emerging from the meeting Prime Minister Shamir said it had been "a good and positive meeting held in a positive atmosphere." Neubach points out that "most of the meeting dealt with the peace process, but no practical decisions were made on the matter." Furthermore, Baker and Shamir agreed that Dennis Ross' upcoming visit "would be used to look into ideas to promote the peace process."]

Peres: Immigrants To Be Settled in Territories

TA1312194090 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres this evening severely criticized the government and asserted that it is setting up hundreds of caravans in the territories so that it can later say that it has no choice but to settle immigrants there. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reported that during a debate at Labor Party headquarters in Tel Aviv, Peres said that in the course of his tour of the country, he saw immigrants who had been reduced to starvation, and he demanded that there be no cuts in the immigrants' absorption allowance.

Levi: Saddam May Become 'Role Model' for Arabs

TA1412112890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister David Levi today warned that if Saddam Husayn emerges from the Gulf crisis with the feeling that his aggression has paid off, he will become a role model in the Arab world. He told a visiting group of U.S. congressmen the Arab world would then descend into Islamic fundamentalism and pan-Arabism. The delegation's leader, Congressman Anthony Beilenson, told Levi the American and allied troops in the Gulf are capable of dealing with Saddam Husayn, should this become necessary. Jack Katzenell reports:

If Saddam Husayn emerges victorious from the Gulf crisis, or even thinks he is, it will set the Middle East back an entire generation. Foreign Minister Levi warned the congressional delegation. The Arab world will descend into Islamic fundamentalism and pan-Arabism, which will wipe out every trace of progressive or new thinking. [passage omitted]

Three Persons Slain in Yafu; Ne'eman Reacts

TA1412093690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Three people were murdered last night in an aluminum factory in Yafu for nationalist reasons. The incident took place in the industrial zone near Blumfield Stadium. The bodies of three people, two men and a woman, all stabbed to death, were found this morning. The walls were painted with graffiti signed by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], assuming responsibility for the murder.

Large police forces headed by Police Commissioner Ya'akov Terner and Tel Aviv District Commander Yig'al Marcus arrived at the scene. Terner told reporters that the murder was apparently perpetrated by two Arabs from Gaza. He noted that this is a serious incident involving a murder carried out for nationalist reasons by people who had nothing but murder in mind. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that police are looking for the perpetrators.

What is known at this point about the circumstances of the murder is that a female clerk and a worker in an aluminum factory on Hatehiya Street in Yafu were stabbed to death. A worker in a nearby workshop who rushed to the scene was also murdered. The three bodies were discovered by two of their colleagues this morning. A large crowd has gathered at the scene of the murder and is calling for revenge against the Arabs.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 14 December carries an initial reaction by Minister Yuval Ne'eman, who said that "if the government does not take the most drastic measures, it will no longer be possible to prevent Jews from spontaneously getting together to kill Arabs in revenge. Minister Ne'eman urged that deliberations on the deportation of the leaders of the intifadah, including those in the villages, be completed soon."]

Ne'eman: Deport 1,000 Arabs

TA1412132990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy, infrastructure, science, and technology, by political correspondent Natan Gutman on 14 December—recorded]

[Text] [Gutman] Mr. Ne'eman, what do you have to say about the hideous murder in Yafu this morning?

[Ne'eman] I have warned about an outbreak of public rage which might lead to attacks on Arabs. I would like to

remind you that when two boys were murdered in Jerusalem's Ramot neighborhood attacks on Arabs and the murder of one Arab ensued. If the government does not take what the public can perceive as drastic action to protect it, it will be impossible to prevent such an outbreak of rage or people taking independent action.

[Gutman] You are making a very serious statement, if I may say so.

[Ne'eman] I am describing a factual situation, and failing to make such a statement will not help if we are faced with such events. Therefore, those making the decisions must bear in mind that it is up to them to prove that the government's actions are appropriate and proportional to the dangers and the anger felt in the public today.

[Gutman] Being a member of the decision-making entity, what do you actually propose?

[Ne'eman] For a long time I have been demanding much more drastic measures, beginning with deportations—and when I say deportations those should be conducted on two levels: of the subversive political leadership in Jerusalem and of hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of leaders of local committees and activists in villages and various towns. For example, I am talking about taking action against the mosques which incite and instigate the stabbers who then stage attacks shouting God is great [preceding three words in Arabic].

[Gutman] Where is the line between the deportations you propose and a transfer?

[Ne'eman] Oh, really. What has a transfer to do with this matter? We are talking here about, say, 1,000 people, whereas a transfer would involve one million people. We are talking about measures which were adopted by the Israeli Government in the period between 1967 and 1977. Two thousand Arabs were deported in that period.

[Gutman] Are you now proposing to deport 1,000 people?

[Ne'eman] Yes, 1,000 people, the leading activists in all the various locations. I understand that the government is in a dilemma because it is subject to outside pressure not to attract attention to this area, but there is no alternative. We are faced with a complicated situation here, and the intifadah cannot be allowed to get out of hand.

Minister Bars Temple Mount Faithful From Site

TA1412084390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo has decided not to allow members of the Temple Mount Faithful movement to tour the Temple Mount next Monday. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the considerations behind the minister's decision are maintaining public order and preventing a possible conflagration if the movement's members were allowed to tour the site.

Arab Stabs Soldier, Civilian in Petah Tiqva

TA1312061790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0600 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] An Arab this morning stabbed a soldier and a civilian on Bar Kokhba Street, near Petah Tiqva's central bus station. The two sustained light injuries. The assailant, a resident of Kafr Qasim, was caught with the knife still in his hand. He confessed to the deed during the police interrogation and said that his motive was nationalistic. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that the man attacked the soldier from behind and stabbed him in the stomach. A 22-year-old man rushed to help the stabbed soldier and was injured in the face. To repeat, both were lightly injured and were taken to Hasharon Hospital for treatment.

Five Air Force Officers Killed in Plane Crash

TA1412061190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Here is a brief communique just released by the Israeli Army spokesman: Five Israeli officers were killed last night in a plane crash in southern Israel. Our military affairs correspondent Amir Fink is in the studio with the details released for publication:

A light Air Force plane crashed last night while on a transportation mission in southern Israel. All the passengers, four male and one female Air Force officers, were killed in the accident. They are: Major Daniyel Novogrodsky, 27, married, from Moshav Kefar Ahim; Maj. 'Ofer Zaharoni, 28, from Moshav Ram On; Captain Ziv Groch, 25, from Kibbutz Gelil Yam; Capt. Gid'on Zakay, 26, from 'Omer; and Capt. Shlomit Ya'ir, 21, from Ra'anana.

Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, the Air Force commander, has appointed an investigating committee to look into the circumstances of the accident.

Papers Update 10, 11 Dec Intifadah Events

TA1112125590

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 11 December in a page A1 report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin reports that "a senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] source yesterday estimated that the terror squads in the territories will continue attempts to detonate makeshift explosive charges. The source said that this constitutes another stage in the residents' move toward the use of firearms, adding that the terror squads are proficient in putting together explosive charges and using them, as they were in Lebanon. He pointed out that other charges had been employed in the Gaza Strip as well. He estimated that the terrorists in the territories have a large quantity of explosives for charges."

HA'ARETZ adds that "14 Palestinians were injured during clashes yesterday in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources asserted that an 18-year-old wanted youth from

Janin was injured when trying to escape IDF troops. The soldiers fired rubber bullets at him, and he fell from the roof he was hiding on, was seriously injured in the head, and was taken away by the soldiers. Another wanted man from Janin was injured by a rubber bullet and taken to a hospital in the town."

The report notes that "an explosive charge similar to the one that caused the death of paratrooper Guy Friedman in Bethlehem was hurled at an IDF outpost in Rafah. The charge went off, but there were no casualties and no damage was caused." HA'ARETZ reports that two IDF officers were injured yesterday during disturbances in the Gaza Strip, noting that "Palestinian sources yesterday reported that seven residents were injured in the course of rioting that erupted in almost all the refugee camps in the Strip, including 14-year-old Nasim Tawfiq Sabah, a resident of al-Shati' refugee camp, who was badly injured." In addition, "Palestinian sources reported clashes with IDF troops in the Jabalyah, al-Shati', Khan Yunus, and Rafah refugee camps, as well as in Gaza City, Khan Yunus, and the neighborhood of al-Shaykh Radwan. The IDF spokesman reported that only two persons were hurt."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 11 December in a pool report on pages A1 and A2 adds that "a makeshift explosive device, hidden inside a burning tire, went off in Nabulus yesterday. A soldier was lightly injured. He was treated at a military infirmary and sent back to his unit."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 11 December reports that "a soldier was injured when a roadside bomb exploded as a bus was heading toward the Samaritan settlement of Elon More. The Army began a search of the area," adding that "in Gaza's al-Shaykh Raddwan district, an Army unit captured two masked Palestinian activists. One of the activists, armed with a knife, was shot and wounded. Palestinian sources say 10 Arab residents were injured in the clash."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 11 December reports that "an Egged bus driver was lightly injured this morning when his bus was pelted with stones near Hizma intersection in north Jerusalem."

Girl Dies in Clash; Other 12 Dec Incidents

TA1312111390

[Editorial Report] In a pool report on page 10, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 13 December reports: "A 13-year-old Palestinian girl was shot to death yesterday when soldiers and Jewish civilians fired at Arab students throwing stones at Israeli cars in the West Bank, Arab reports said." "The Army confirmed the death, which occurred along the trans-Samaria highway, and said it was investigating the circumstances." The report adds that the death occurred after "about 200 students from Bidduya threw stones at cars during a demonstration marking the anniversary of the founding of the PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine]." Writing about the incident, Tel Aviv YEDI'OT

AHARONOT in Hebrew on 13 December, in a page 4 report by Roni Shaqed and Hayim Broida, adds that "according to Arab sources, a Bidduya resident was seriously wounded by the gunfire. The sources further stated that three more Arabs were wounded yesterday in the West Bank: two in the village of Ya'bad and one in the Ramallah District village of Sinjil."

THE JERUSALEM POST further reports that "two Israelis were injured when their car overturned after it was pelted with stones in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Wadi al-Jawz, police said."

"Two soldiers on reserve duty were slightly injured when they were stoned while traveling in a civilian vehicle in Hebron. The soldiers were brought to Hadassah-En Kerem."

"The Civil Administration in Nabulus barred Shahir Sa'd, head of the workers' organization in the territories, from entering pre-1967 Israel."

"In East Jerusalem, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets in several locations to disperse stone throwers. Police arrested six persons and closed two schools." "Police also reported stone-throwing clashes at schools in al-Tur and Jabal al-Mukabar. They closed two schools and arrested one person."

"Border Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas in Shu'fat refugee camp, in northern Jerusalem, to disperse residents throwing stones and bottles. No injuries were reported."

"In the Gaza Strip, a curfew imposed last week ahead of the third anniversary of the intifada was lifted, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said."

"According to Shmuel Goren, coordinator of Israeli activities in the territories, Palestinians in the territories used firearms more in 1990 than during the first two years of the intifadah. He told reporters late Tuesday that authorities had logged 90 remote-controlled bomb attacks against soldiers, compared with 65 in 1989 and 83 in 1988."

"He said soldiers were attacked with automatic weapons 79 times this year, against 77 times last year and 15 times the year before."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 13 December in a page 6 report by Doron Me'iri, Shraga Zeiger, Shuqi Levanon, Daniyel Aviv, Fayiz 'Abbas, and ITIM writes: "Yesterday masked individuals attacked 'Aziza Muhammad Khatib and her son Ziyad from the al-Nusayrat refugee camp for suspected collaboration. The masked men broke her arms and legs. She was taken to Tel Hashomer Hospital in critical condition."

"Last night, two Molotov cocktails were thrown at the military government building in Gaza. The bottles shattered, but no one was hurt and no damage was caused."

The YEDI'OT AHARONOT report further writes that "yesterday the Army lifted the curfew that was imposed on Bethlehem early last week, in the wake of the death of

Gay Friedman in a roadside bomb explosion." It adds that "Arab sources reported four residents wounded in yesterday's disturbances in the Strip; the Army confirmed two. A gas grenade thrown by an IDF soldier fell into a kindergarten in al-Burayj, and 23 children were slightly hurt after inhaling gas. They were treated at an UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] clinic, said Arab sources."

11 Dec Incidents in Territories Reported

TA1212110290

[Editorial Report] Writing on page 4 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 12 December, Shraga Zeiger, Doron Me'iri, and Buki Na'e report: "An empty passenger train making its way from Jerusalem to Bet Shemesh was stoned in the vicinity of the village of Battir, south of Jerusalem, yesterday afternoon. The train's security guards fired at the assailants.

"The train had stopped in the Battir area after one of its cars came unlocked. A group of youths, some of them masked, threw smoke grenades and stones at the train, breaking four windows.

"Later, a wounded man who, according to Arab sources, had been shot by the security guards, arrived at al-Maqasid Hospital. A Border Police unit in the vicinity at the time of the incident fired tear gas canisters and rubber bullets at the youths."

HADASHOT further reports that "a private bus was stoned in the Neve Ya'akov neighborhood in northern Jerusalem yesterday afternoon. One of the passengers sustained a slight head injury from a glass shard."

"Eight children were injured in clashes between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and local residents in the Khan Yunus refugee camp. They were transferred to al-Nasir Hospital.

"In disturbances in the Rafah refugee camp and the Shabura neighborhood, six youths were wounded. Two others were wounded in disturbances in the al-Mughazi refugee camp.

"A Molotov cocktail was yesterday hurled at a civilian vehicle belonging to the Civilian Administration in the Bayt Lahiyah refugee camp. No one was hurt.

"An Arab youth was slightly injured by IDF gunfire in the course of disturbances in the Ramallah District village of Qarawat Bani-Zayd last night. In the Shu'fat refugee camp in north Jerusalem, dozens of youths attacked a Border Police patrol. No one was hurt; one suspect was detained."

"Masked individuals yesterday shot and killed Ziyad Sabra, 32, from the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp, presumably in connection with suspected collaboration. The police removed Sabra's body for a post mortem."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 12 December, in a page 4 report by Roni Shaqed, David Regev, and Yotam Navin writes: "In violent disturbances in the Tulkarm refugee camp yesterday, five local residents, including two women, were wounded. Two youths were wounded in the village of Shuwaykah near Tulkarm. Arab sources reported that one of them, a 14 year old, was hurt after attempting to knife a soldier."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 12 December reports that "the houses of three activists of a local strike committee were demolished in Rafah last night. The men are suspected of having fired at an Army patrol about a month ago" and of "having interrogated and murdered local residents who were believed to be collaborating with the authorities."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 12 December adds that "two Israelis from Jerusalem last night sustained slight injuries when their car overturned in Wadi al-Jawz when stones were hurled at it."

U.S. Navy Said To Turn Back Sudan-Bound Ships

JN1412082290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
14 Dec 90 pp 1, 14

[Names of ships as published]

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—U.S. naval units deployed at the Straits of Tiran have intercepted the Sudanese ship Dounga, which was carrying 300 cars belonging to Sudanese evacuees who left Iraq and Kuwait. The cars were being ferried from al-'Aqabah to Sudan. The U.S. warship Sampson forced the ship to return to al-'Aqabah port on the pretext that it was carrying commodities from Iraq.

A source at the Tawfiq Gharghur and Sons Company, the shipping agent, said that the cars belong to Sudanese evacuees who left Jordan earlier and who made arrangements for their cars to be ferried aboard the ship Dounga, but the U.S. Navy intercepted it at the straits of Tiran and forced it to return to al-'Aqabah.

Shipping sources said that the U.S. Navy intercepted another ship named Talya while sailing from al-'Aqabah to Sanaa, which was carrying containers of furniture and luggage for Yemeni evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait. The Navy forced the ship to return to al-'Aqabah on the pretext that shipment came from Iraq.

Voluntary Groups Ship Relief Supplies to Iraq

JN1312081090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
13-14 Dec p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Wednesday announced it had shipped 20 tonnes of relief supplies to Iraq and said it was made up of medicines and medicated milk destined for the Iraqi children.

A GUVS announcement said that the shipment, the second of its kind in two weeks, was destined to the Iraqi institutions which cares for the children and it was in harmony with the U.N. Security Council resolutions which allowed humanitarian supplies to be sent to Iraq.

Last week GUVS shipped five tonnes of medical supplies and said that they too were destined for Iraqi children; the shipment came in the wake of Iraq's announcement that tens of children had died due to shortage of medicine and milk.

GUVS, which had raised more than JD 1 million in cash and humanitarian supplies to Iraq following the imposition of a trade embargo with Iraq, had organised several shipments of basic food commodities, medical supplies and other relief materials which were sent to Baghdad in trucks.

In October the Jordanian government barred further shipments and turned back two consignments of medicine and food. Border police stopped the trucks and turned them away. Representatives of two local pharmaceutical companies, which organised the shipments of

medicine, met with U.N. representatives in Jordan to secure the passage of the medical supplies which were not in violation of the U.N. sanctions.

A U.N. envoy, Jean Ripert, who visited Jordan in October, reported that the Kingdom was honouring the sanctions, except for the purchase of Iraqi oil, and said that Jordan was eligible for compensation for its heavy losses incurred as a result of its compliance with the embargo.

King Stresses Importance of Inter-Arab Dialogue

JN1312195690 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon a world Islamic popular leadership delegation, which is currently touring a number of Arab and Islamic countries. At the beginning of the meeting, his majesty welcomed members of the delegation and stressed the importance of every popular Arab and Islamic effort at this critical phase and in view of the challenges facing the Arab homeland and the Islamic world. His majesty reviewed the roots and developments of the Gulf crisis, as well as Jordan's efforts to contain the crisis since its began and to keep it within its Arab framework. His majesty added that the opportunity still exists to achieve this and to initiate an inter-Arab dialogue that emphasizes the Arab nation's ability to deal with its problems without foreign intervention.

His majesty said: Certainly, other parties, unlike us, are not concerned about our interests and the interests of our generations. He said these parties do not want the Arab and Islamic leaders to tackle our issues in accordance with the demands of national, pan-Arab, and historical responsibility. His majesty urged the members of the delegation to continue their mission and to intensify their efforts and contacts with all Arab and Islamic leaderships and all popular forces. This is because, his majesty noted, the dangers posed to us do not exclude any country or people in the Arab and Islamic world. His majesty said that, as these leaders and popular forces assume their responsibilities during this phase, they should prepare for the next phase in which democracy, human rights, the dignity of the homeland and the nation, and the rights of future generations should be respected.

His majesty warned that any war in the region will be a war with no winners and that it is a fatal mistake for some to imagine that ours is a dead nation. His majesty said the sentiments demonstrated by the Jordanian people are shared by all Arabs and Muslims, who would demonstrate the same sentiments were they allowed to do so under democracy and respect for human rights, especially the right of freedom of expression. His majesty warned again against the illusion that what floats on the surface in the Arab homeland and the Islamic world is what lies deep within millions of Arabs and Muslims. His majesty reiterated the principles of the Jordanian position on the Gulf crisis, saying that the consequences of our position will not

prevent us from expressing our concern for the interests of the Arab homeland and nation.

His majesty said that our Jordanian family will remain a unified, conscientious, and proud family, whatever happens. Despite everything, his majesty noted, it is an honor to us in this country to hold fast and to stand up to that situation, and we are confident that ours is a lively nation and one that is determined to reach its objectives and aspirations. His majesty said that the absence of democracy and lack of respect for the rights of Arab Muslim human beings are two factors that have allowed our differences to escalate and our single front to crack, thus allowing the covetous one to reach us through the gaps of differences and divisions.

His majesty concluded his speech by saying that dialogue is the avenue to the resolution of the Gulf crisis, and that had dialogue and our efforts been given the chance to be successful in the beginning, the crisis would not have reached the current situation.

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Sharif, head of the delegation, and delegation members praised His Majesty King Husayn's good offices, which have been followed with admiration and hope by the Arab and Islamic masses. The speakers dwelled upon his majesty's recent speech at the Command and Staff College and his call for an inter-Arab dialogue. They said that such a dialogue is the sole way to draw the Gulf crisis to a fair political conclusion. Members of the delegation hoped that his majesty will continue his efforts despite all obstacles, because the alternative to dialogue and a political settlement will be a destructive war whose heavy price will be paid by the Arabs and Muslims and which will undermine the region's peace and security and world peace and security.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, his excellency the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and his majesty the king's political adviser.

King Meets FRG Deputy, Discusses Gulf Position

*JN1312200890 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Hans-Juergen Wischniewski, member of the German Parliament for the Social Democratic Party and deputy chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Parliament. The German parliamentarian listened to an explanation from his majesty the king on the principles governing the Jordanian position on the Gulf crisis, principles based on the need to intensify efforts to achieve a political settlement of the crisis and start an inter-Arab dialogue that would pave the way for this settlement and spare the region and the world the catastrophes resulting from any use of military force.

Wischniewski paid tribute to the responsible role his majesty the king has been playing since the crisis erupted and expressed his desire for a political settlement that would serve security and peace in the Middle East and the world.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the German charge d'affaires in Amman.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan also received Wischniewski at his office today. They conducted a comprehensive review of the Gulf crisis and stressed the need for a peaceful solution to it.

U.S. Viewed as 'Saved' by USSR in UN Votes

*JN1312080990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] We start our news bulletin from the UN Security Council which this morning postponed for the seventh time voting on the draft resolution on the situation in the occupied territories and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Today, the same scenario from Saturday and Monday was repeated: The Soviet Union asked for a procedural vote for postponement to prevent the United States from taking a definitive position on the draft resolution that could cause embarrassment for it on more than one level. Details of the Security Council discussions follow:

What is happening in the UN Security Council confirms that the United States is facing a real dilemma, from which it is being saved on every occasion by the Soviet Union alone. Yemen, Cuba, Colombia, and Malaysia, the four nonaligned member states which proposed the draft resolution on the occupied territories and the Arab-Israeli conflict, insist on their position rejecting the introduction of amendments to the draft resolution, which calls for measures to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories and for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference, and which considers Jerusalem an indivisible part of the occupied territories. This draft resolution is supported by China and France.

Sources at the United Nations say the United States could have used the veto automatically against the draft resolution if there were no Gulf crisis, in an implicit recognition of the existence of a real link between this crisis and the Palestine question. Washington is therefore facing a real dilemma in the Security Council from two angles: First, Washington's support for or abstention from voting on the draft resolution means that it has practically accepted the principle of linking the Palestine question with the Gulf crisis, since its acceptance of convening the international conference and denouncing Israel—assuming this takes place—will be in response to the international pressures supporting linkage and the application of the same international standards on various issues and crises, especially after various international parties have supported the U.S. position on the Gulf crisis in the Security Council. The second angle to

the U.S. dilemma is that rejecting the draft resolution by vetoing it would mean that Washington has entered into a confrontation with the world, which demands that all international criteria be standardized. Such a U.S. position may cost Washington the support it had won against Iraq, and which it is concerned about maintaining, especially with the approach of the 15 January 1991 deadline specified by the latest Security Council resolution for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait as a condition not to use force against it.

Each time the UN Security Council convenes, Washington's savior from its dilemma is the Soviet Union, which for the third time this morning called for a procedural vote to postpone adopting a final position at the Security Council. This proposal was supported by nine states, including the Soviet Union, the United States, and Britain. It was opposed by the four states that submitted the draft resolution and stressed their rejection of any amendment. China and France abstained, stressing that by abstaining from voting and declining to veto the measure, the draft resolution would not be altogether foiled.

UN sources say the four nonaligned members in the Security Council are pursuing a clever diplomatic process supported by China and France. This process will lead to the achievement of two principal objectives: to maintain the focus on the situation in the occupied territories and the Israeli practices, and on the need to find a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict through a Middle East peace conference. The second objective is to continue to expose the U.S. position that is insisting on applying different standards on different international issues. The Soviet position followed the U.S. position in this direction.

The Security Council will meet again on Monday. It seems that the same scenario will be repeated in the next meeting.

Information Minister Speaks on Media Role in Gulf

JN1212185990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1220 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The House of Representatives held a meeting today under Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat in the presence of the cabinet. [passage omitted]

In a statement on the role of the Jordanian media in the Gulf crisis, Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din explained in detail the efforts made by Jordanian media in following the Gulf crisis and covering its news. At the beginning of his statement, he made several points to clarify the media activities in Jordan. He pointed out that Jordanian society is currently in a transitional phase in which the final picture of the traditions of media activities has not yet been crystallized, either in terms of legislative or practical aspects. He said that this phase, however, has witnessed the end of government monopoly over the media. The opportunity is now open for all sectors of the population and political movements to express their opinions freely. He pointed out the

well-known fact that material in the media cannot fulfill the expectations of all peoples at all times, because of differences in taste, demands, and standards.

The information minister said that Jordan has always been conspicuous in its ability to deal with changes and developments. The latest political and social changes have contributed to organizing this ability and pointing it in a clear direction.

Later, he touched on how the Information Ministry deals with the press. He said:

[Begin recording] The Information Ministry is no longer a party to the chief editors in their responsibilities. Each chief editor shoulders full responsibility for what is or is not published in his newspaper. We are proud that this has become acknowledged in Jordan and elsewhere. It has promoted the credibility of the Jordanian press and opened prospects for a free hand in administration and expression. The ministry will attempt to reflect this situation in the new legislation that will be presented before your honorable House; the foremost being the press and publication law, which will strengthen the free press and determine its responsibility in a legal and clear manner based on the Constitution. It is expected that the new phase will see the birth of new journals, once the National Charter is approved, which will reflect the diverse opinions, and political and intellectual trends on various issues. [end recording]

Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din said that a free press is no longer theoretical or a distant promise, now that the administration of the press organizes journalistic activity without controlling or interfering in it.

With regard to the roles of television, radio, and THE JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the information minister said that these organs tried in the past months to improve their news programs and to expand them to cover all activities in society. He stressed their objectivity in covering the news, their concern to reveal the truth, and the opportunity they provide for diverse views. Hence, gradually, official control was being removed.

The information minister said that Jordanian television is more interested in developing local society. The radio has also achieved a clear accomplishment in this field.

While reviewing the Jordanian media's efforts inside and outside to explain the Jordanian viewpoint on the Gulf crisis, he touched on the deliberate distortion of the Jordanian position by the foreign news media at the beginning of the crisis, and the change that took place as a result of a general pan-Arab effort led by His Majesty King Husayn in which the Jordanian media played a major role. Within this context Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din said:

[Begin recording] The free press has contributed in portraying the citizens' aspirations and opinions precisely and faithfully. The official media has covered

events in a balanced and faithful manner, exposing the citizens to the facts, especially since the time periods designated for it on television and radio were extended and their contents made more profound. If we bear in mind that Jordanian radio now enjoys the highest level of credibility among our brothers in the Palestinian occupied territories—which was revealed in a recent survey there—and that 95 percent of viewers in Jordan listen to the 2000 [1800 GMT] newscast on Jordanian television, we conclude that there is great interest in the newscasts on television and radio. This conclusion tallies with the letters and phone calls received by them expressing many suggestions and wishes, which reveals appreciation and a positive view in response to the media's performance. The radio, through expanding its contacts, has become a creator of news and not only a source of it. Some of its news items are cited by other Arab and foreign news agencies. Its news programs host the elite of press and journalistic figures, university professors, and others who work in the public sector in Jordan and Arab and foreign countries. The situation is the same with regard to television and THE JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY. [end recording]

The information minister noted the great efforts by the ministry to extend every form of service to the foreign journalists who have come to Jordan to cover the Gulf crisis.

The House has decided to discuss the statement made by the information minister in two weeks. [passage omitted]

[Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister] Marwan al-Qasim explained what Jordan had faced in the attempts to dissuade it from its political direction, which will eventually maintain the Arab right in this region, and thwart any opportunists. He said that Jordan was among the first countries to understand the real dimensions of the Gulf crisis and to call for allowing an opportunity for an Arab solution. [passage omitted]

'Arabiyat on 'Onslaught' of Temple Mount Faithful

JN1412113990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, has urged all Arabs—rulers and peoples—to bypass all factors of disunity and adopt the course of inter-Arab and Arab-Islamic dialogue to confront the impending challenges and enemies of the nation, irrespective of their different faces. In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY following reports that the so-called Temple Mount Faithful, an extremist Zionist group, earned permission to enter the courtyards of the holy al-Aqsa mosque on Monday, Dr. 'Arabiyat called on the heads of Arab and Islamic parliaments and all international organizations to play their role along with their peoples and rulers. He also called on the international organizations and societies that work to safeguard holy places and human rights everywhere to adopt an honest stand vis-a-vis this unprecedented, barbaric onslaught.

Dr. 'Arabiyat addressed cables to this effect on behalf of the Jordanian House of Representatives to Arab and Islamic parliaments and international organizations.

Envoys Instructed on Issue

JN1312191590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The government has instructed Jordan's permanent UN envoy to contact the UN General Secretariat and the Security Council Presidency in order to raise the issue of the possibility of the Israeli authorities' allowing the so-called Temple Mount Faithful—an extremist Jewish group—to enter the al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem next Monday under the pretext of observing a religious celebration there.

The government asked the envoy to explain the dangers such an action would pose to the situation in the holy city, especially in light of the recent Israeli carnage inside the al-Haram al-Sharif.

The government also asked Jordan's ambassadors to the five permanent UN Security Council member states to exert similar efforts with the governments to whom they are accredited to persuade them to express their objection to such practices and to work to prevent them—because these practices will lead to a serious escalation of the situation in Jerusalem and the entire occupied Arab territories.

TIMES on House Deliberations on Cabinet Posts

JN1312082990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
13-14 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ghadir al-Tahir]

[Text] Amman—Members of the Parliamentary Unity Coalition (PUC) met late into the night Wednesday in an attempt to unify ranks after divisions emerged over the coalition's possible participation in a new government.

The 40-strong coalition, which elected Muslim Brotherhood candidate 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat as speaker of the 80-member Lower House of Parliament, appeared divided over negotiations between Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Muslim Brotherhood for inclusion in a new cabinet.

Parliamentary sources told the Jordan Times that while the 22-member Muslim Brotherhood and the eight independent Islamist deputies broadly agreed on the principle of participation in the government, some coalition partners—pan-Arab nationalists and independents—were pressing for a new government rather than a limited reshuffle within the Badran cabinet.

The pan-Arab nationalists and independents in the coalition, who last year refused to give their vote of confidence to Badran's government, "prefer to push for forming a new government, with or without Badran,

rather than have a limited cabinet reshuffle that would not change much," said an independent deputy in the coalition.

Coalition sources said the pan-Arab nationalists and independents expressed apprehension that Badran's negotiations with the Muslim Brotherhood's leadership could eventually lead to their exclusion from the deal.

Differences within the coalition which delayed a final decision on participation in the cabinet expected last Tuesday centred on some deputies' reluctance to join Badran's government, according to coalition sources. They argue that participation in the government would not result in substantial change under present policies.

Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khalifah, the Brotherhood's spiritual leader, said Tuesday that "no final decision has yet been made (about participation in the government)." He said that "until now, there are some brothers who do not wish to join the government."

Informed sources said that the Brotherhood leadership had asked for five portfolios for itself and at least three for coalition partners during negotiations with Badran.

Parliamentary observers contend that by limiting his negotiations to the Brotherhood, Badran was trying to split the coalition and thus gain the advantage of having to deal with a smaller grouping.

"By responding to the needs of the Brotherhood and not its partners, the prime minister is trying to tell the group to abandon its allies in the coalition and get a better deal for itself," one observer asserted.

A member of the coalition said shortly before Wednesday's meeting: "This is going to be a crucial discussion. It could decide whether the coalition holds up or not."

Badran refused to comment on the ongoing negotiations with the Muslim Brotherhood, but official sources said the prime minister "does not want to appear to be giving in to pressure from the coalition."

One source pointed out that the head of the executive authority was under no constitutional obligation to appoint members of the legislature to his cabinet.

"He could appoint nonparliamentary Islamists to represent the political forces in the House," said one government source. He explained that the prime minister could appoint Upper House members of different political persuasions or others who enjoy the support of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Parliamentary sources said Shaykh Khalifah, who is heading the negotiations with Badran, had submitted a list of 10 nominees for cabinet portfolios which included people outside Parliament. The list, according to sources, including Balqa Deputy Fawzi Tu'aymah a Christian allied with the coalition.

The sources said Badran would choose five out of the 10 names for cabinet posts. The list is seen as a concession by the Brotherhood who initially insisted on giving a limited five-member list.

A source said Badran was also considering including members of the "National Bloc" and other groupings in Parliament including the "Liberal Bloc" and independents. According to the source, the prime minister intends to continue to have technocrats in the government, particularly for the portfolios of industry, supply and finance.

One Brotherhood source said the group was seeking a final agreement with Badran by Dec. 16.

Army To Deploy in Iqlim Al-Tuffah Within Week

*NC1312161590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] Regarding the Iqlim al-Tuffah issue, the BEIRUT NEWS AGENCY has cited a prominent government source as saying that there are still obstacles to the Army deployment despite certain positive signs demonstrated by some parties. The source added that the Army will be deployed in Iqlim al-Tuffah in the very near future, which will be no longer than one week. After the Army has been deployed there, the parties concerned will be requested to withdraw within a specified period of time. If this is not done force will be used, because there is an agreement between Lebanon and Syria to close the Iqlim al-Tuffah file no matter what the cost, as the prominent source put it.

PFLP Links Weapons Withdrawal to Liberation

*NC1212181490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) official in Lebanon has declared that the front will not withdraw its weapons from Lebanon until southern Lebanon and Palestine are liberated.

'Awn Officers Leave French Embassy, Join Army

*NC1412121990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Text] Following the mediation of Army Commander General Emile Lahhud, five Army officers emerged from

hiding in the French Embassy and joined the Army command yesterday. The officers are Colonel 'Adil Sasin, Colonel Michel Lahhud, Captain Antoine Abu-Samrah, Captain Nicholas 'Aramuni, and Captain Habib Faris.

These officers took refuge in the French Embassy [on 13 October] along with former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn and his two assistants 'Isam Abu-Jamrah and Edgar Ma'luf.

Al-Hirawi Ill, Unable To Receive Deputies

*NC1312131690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] The press department of the presidential office has issued the following statement:

President of the republic Ilyas al-Hirawi regrets that he is unable to receive the deputies as usual today as he is ill and in bed. He will meet with them next Thursday as usual.

Three Injured in Bomb Attack on Phalangist Center

*NC1312203990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] Gunmen in civilian clothes hurled an explosive charge at the Phalangist Party center in Kafr Shima at 1940 GMT today. Salim al-Haj, Fadi Hatshiti, and George Ja'ja', residents of a nearby house, were injured in the explosion. A security source told the Voice of Lebanon that the attackers were traveling in a gray BMW-730 bearing civilian license plates.

Lebanon's Al-Hirawi Hold Talks With President

*JN1312211090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
2000 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Dispatch by Louis Faris from Damascus carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The expected summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi was held at the Presidential Palace in al-Muhajirin this evening immediately following al-Hirawi's arrival in the Syrian capital, according to an official Lebanese source's statement to Radio Monte Carlo. The source said the summit was scheduled to be held on Wednesday; however, it was replaced by the meeting that was held in Shtawrah between President al-Hirawi on the one hand, and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi, on the other.

The source added that the Damascus summit was held to complete the Shtawrah talks. These talks centered on the Lebanese question, which includes the formation of an expanded national accord government in Lebanon to include all parties. In this way, the government can make the major and important decisions to resolve the issue of militias in Lebanon within the time limit set by the al-Ta'if agreement.

In another development, Syrian presidential spokesman Jubran Kuriyah stressed that the first meeting between Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi was held one-on-one. They were later joined by 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and General Hikmat al-Shihabi. The talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon and ways to implement the Lebanese national accord document. A working dinner was held, followed by a second expanded meeting which is still in progress.

Ba'th Official Confers With Islamic Delegation

*JN1312085690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2115 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this evening met with the World Popular Islamic Leadership delegation, which includes representatives from a number of Arab and Islamic countries led by Dr. Muhammad Sharif. During the meeting, the talks dealt with developments in the Arabian Gulf crisis, their results, and possible repercussions on Arabs and Muslims.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed the importance of continuing peaceful efforts to avert the possible dangers of this crisis if Iraq does not change its position; to accept the resolutions of the Arab summit, the UN Security Council, and the Islamic Conference Organization; or withdraw from Kuwait, as this is the only way to find a political and peaceful solution.

The talks also focused on the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Zionist enemy's expansionist policy, which is benefiting from the Gulf crisis at the expense of Arab territory and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Emphasis was placed on the role of Arab, Islamic, and world forces to confront this aggression, put an end to it, and achieve a just, lasting peace in the Arab region on the basis of restoring the occupied Arab territory and the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights, particularly their right to return to their homeland, to self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their national soil in Palestine.

Khaddam Explains Position on Gulf

*JN1312190290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] At 1030 GMT today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received the World Popular Islamic Leadership delegation led by its secretary general, Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Sharif.

The delegation explained their mission, which is to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. The vice president explained Syria's position, which is to enforce the resolutions made at the emergency Arab summit in Cairo, secure Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, return legitimacy, and avoid a military explosion in the region.

The vice president added that Iraq's implementation of the Arab summit resolutions will help avert the accumulation of the harmful effects of its invasion of Kuwait.

Defense Minister Reviews Gulf Developments

*JN1312184890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, a celebration was held this morning during the graduation of a new class of officers from the Political Military College.

General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, deputized for President al-Asad. [passage omitted] Gen. Mustafa Talas, representative of the commander in chief, gave a speech. He conveyed the greetings of the leader of the march, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, and his wishes for the graduates to succeed in their future missions. [passage omitted]

Gen. Talas reviewed political developments in the region. He said that since the emergence of the Corrective Movement, Syria, under the leadership of struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad, pledged to defend Arab causes on a genuine pan-Arab basis. He also said that Syria has done its best and exerted efforts and energy to serve pan-Arab causes, and sought to unite Arab ranks for the

fateful battle. Syria, he added, has considered the Palestine question the Arabs' first cause. For this reason, it fought the October War—with the cooperation of fraternal Egypt.

He added that no one can ignore Syria's noble pan-Arab position to reestablish peace and stability in Lebanon. He added that what happened on 13 October was motivated by concerns for the unity of Lebanon and for the elimination of all hateful manifestations of sectarianism, so that Lebanon could reassume its proper role within the Arab family.

Gen. Talas said that those who are deliberately trying to create secondary disputes under the banner of defending Arab causes, primarily the ruling regime in Baghdad, are mistaken and deluded. He said the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is a crime against the Arabs and their fateful causes, because this invasion has brought foreign forces into the region, galvanized world public opinion against Iraq and the Arabs, removed the Palestine question from the list of international priorities, and led the Arab region to the brink of an explosion.

Gen. Talas continued: Since the outbreak of the crisis, the Syria of al-Asad has sought to confine it to the context of the Arab family and prevent its internationalization, in order to spare the region the danger of explosion and destruction. He said the world has testified to President al-Asad's wisdom, strength, and political acumen. Al-Asad's recent meeting with President Bush in Geneva and the restoration of diplomatic ties with Britain are important and positive results in the course of the Arab-Zionist conflict. These developments are certainly in the interest of the causes of the Arab nation, Gen. Talas said. [passage omitted]

U.S. Moves Called 'Step in Right Direction'

*JN1112112890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT
11 Dec 90*

[Text] Damascus, 11 Dec (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN said in its editorial today under the headline "A Step in the Right Direction" that the Security Council resumed its deliberations yesterday regarding the situation in the occupied Arab territories. The discussion focused on the draft resolution to protect the Palestinian people from Israel's criminal practices and call for convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

It adds that the United States alone is taking a hesitant stand regarding the draft resolution under discussion by the Security Council. U.S. circles are indicating their fear that some known sides would hasten to exploit the situation to link the Gulf crisis with the crisis in the region, knowing that there is no linkage between the two crises.

It went on to say that Syria continued its contacts with the United States in light of the discussions which took place between Presidents Bush and al-Asad in Geneva regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict. The United States has confirmed many principles through its ambassador, foremost of which is the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force; finding the appropriate means to protect the Palestinian people; continuing efforts toward a permanent, just, and comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338; and convening an international peace conference in the region at the appropriate time.

In conclusion, TISHRIN describes the U.S. commitment to these principles as forming a progressive step in the right direction toward resolving the regional dispute in a just manner.

AL-BA'TH Accuses Israel of Preparing for War

*JN1212082690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0545 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Enemy Leaders Are Beating the Drums of War," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The whole world is calling for a just and comprehensive peace, and several states are working in this direction. Israel on the other hand is beating the drums of war, thus defying the international community and its desire to achieve a just peace in this vital part of the world. Enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who is currently in Washington holding lengthy talks with U.S. officials, has reiterated Israel's usual rejection of any international conference to establish a just and lasting peace, and of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. At the same time, while in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, enemy war minister Moshe Arens said that the Golan Heights will continue to be an indivisible part of Israel.

The paper adds: These statements, made simultaneously by Shamir and Arens, prove that Israel is beating the drums of war and is preparing for war, rather than peace.

In conclusion, the paper says: In light of these statements, we believe that there should be a sound and mature Arab position on what is going on.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Inaugurates Mine Clearing Commission

LD1212202390 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, 11 Dec (BAKHTAR)—Speech by Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, at the first session of the national Commission for Clearing the Territory of the Republic of Afghanistan of Mines and Undetonated Ammunition.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Respected audience, esteemed president, esteemed members of the National Commission for Clearing the Territory of the Republic of Afghanistan of Mines and Undetonated Ammunition. In the name of God, we will start the work of the national program and National Commission for Clearing the Territory of the Republic of Afghanistan of Mines and Undetonated Ammunition.

I am pleased to participate in this auspicious and humanitarian act. Embarking on a national program of mine clearing gives one the feeling of getting closer to the end of the war. May God turn this good omen into the reality of our people's lives.

Esteemed audience, many efforts have been made by the Republic of Afghanistan to put an end to war and to ensure the security of the miserable people of the country. Clearing the territory of mines is of special importance, however, because the problem of mines and undetonated ammunition is one of the most terrifying legacies of the war. Hundreds of our compatriots have already lost their lives or their physical well being because of mines. Hundreds of trucks, buses, cars, small vehicles, and tractors have been blown up. Tens of thousands of hectares of orchards, farms, forests, and pastures have remained unused. These losses and damages continue, and may well persist for years.

According to a very rudimentary and incomplete census taken during the first eight months of the current year, 199 people were martyred and 209 injured. Unfortunately, no one at national level has precise or realistic statistics on the variety and number of mines and unexploded ammunition. To help with the national commission, and for other socioeconomic purposes, it is necessary that the Ministry of Statistics start work, with the help of related Afghan administrations and involved countries, to obtain data and technical information on mines and undetonated ammunition: their type, the losses and damage caused by them, and the number of killed and disabled people.

No sooner have military operations ceased in an area, and people started their peaceful lives, than the problem of mines unexpectedly raises its ugly head before the people of Afghanistan. It would be a mistake to think that clearing operations will be delayed until the complete cessation of war and restoration of peace. Right now, there are areas where combat operations have been

halted and total or relative calm exists, with people resuming their normal lives. If clearing operations do not immediately start there, tragedies will undoubtedly happen every day. Clearing the country of mines and undetonated ammunition is a necessary element in returning refugees and restoring peace, and thus heads the list of urgent duties of the state and the people of the Republic of Afghanistan. Understanding that responsibility, the government has carried out complicated work in scrupulously drafting the program.

In the meantime, the program has a noble goal: Clearing the country of mines will be carried out through the joint efforts of all Afghan and international forces. The neutrality and nonpartisanship of the program secures grounds for practical participation by the opposition in the work of the commission and for securing the cooperation of foreign countries and international organizations in detecting and clearing mines.

Here I would like to make note of an issue: It is not fair that some circles call the existence of mines the real or main reason for obstructing the return of refugees. If political and military obstacles were removed from the path of the refugees, why should the refugees have to return to the country along difficult paths, facing the danger of undetonated mines? Why did those mines not hinder members of the armed opposition in moving from Pakistan to Afghanistan?

When Soviet units withdrew from Afghanistan, some of their minefields were cleared by them; charts, formulas, and maps of the remaining sections have been handed over to the Afghan Army. Technical documents on the minefields set up by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan for the security of units, military installations, highways, important state institutions, and the national economy have been arranged in a professional manner and are kept in special archives.

The existence of the documents, and limits to that type of mine, facilitate clearing operations on our part. With regard to the mines planted by the opposition, however, it must be said that no regulations or principles have been observed. The rules of war do not permit mine-laying by unprofessional people without maps, formulas, and signs. Unfortunately, however, millions of various kinds of mines—including metal and plastic mines, booby-traps and toys, and anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines made by various countries—have been planted by unprofessional members of the opposition, with no maps or documents.

According to available statistics, during the course of the war about one million opposition mines have been cleared or captured in depots by the Armed Forces. If we say, hypothetically, that these mines constitute one third of all the mines of the opposition, then at least two million more mines are scattered throughout the country. Such a situation once again necessitates the active participation of the opposition and the manufacturing countries in the activities included in the program.

Warning the public of the dangers of mines and initiating due measures to prevent their being hurt by mines will be recognized as one of the basic duties of the program. It is appropriate and fair that the program has foreseen legal guarantees and morale-boosting privileges for those—and especially for the mine-clearing personnel—who suffer injuries as a result of the mines.

Taking advantage of the commission's tribute, I would like to note the problems of thousands of our disabled compatriots, most of whom have lost their physical ability as a result of stepping on mines. Throughout the war years the government has certainly not spared whatever they could offer by way of their treatment, but disabilities and artificial limbs require persistent treatment and care. I support the establishment of a large medical center for permanent treatment, prosthetics, and care, operating under the supervision of skilled domestic and foreign specialists. Such a center can be built with the financial participation of the government through material donations made to the national program by compatriots, foreign countries, international organizations, and humanitarian establishments.

In later stages, it will be necessary to study the feasibility of setting up special production firms by securing the cooperation of the private sector and international establishments to resolve the problem of disabled people's employment and to return them to the productive forces of society. The list of operations directly or indirectly related to the national program is a long one. Serious clearing operations, however, will start without delay in peaceful areas: on highways, roads, and routes to the areas of refugee residents.

I am sure that political parties, social organizations, private firms, national businessmen and entrepreneurs, affluent persons, and compatriots will not spare materials, expertise, or humanitarian aid for the national program. I have full confidence in the success of the program. The high authority of Esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister and chairman of the national commission, and the high level and cooperation of members of the commission and special committees provides a confident guarantee for the persistent and persevering work in the implementation of planned goals. The commission can be confident of my unsparing cooperation as president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan. The supreme command of the Armed Forces will embark on the requisite measures so that the work in detecting and locating minefields, in training professional personnel, and in supplying engineering units with personnel, vehicles, and modern mine-searching equipment is carried out in the manner the national commission desires.

Esteemed president and members of the National Commission, allow me to cordially wish you great success in a task that, though replete with responsibility, is honorable and humanitarian. Thank you for your attention.

'Arafat's Peace Mediation Effort Examined

LD1312213590 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1636
GMT 13 Dec 90

[Interview with Abu-Khalid, special envoy of Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified correspondents in Kabul on 13 December—recorded]

[Text] [passage indistinct] [Khalid, in Arabic with superimposed Dari translation] Our people fully believe that the people and state of Afghanistan are among those friendly countries who approve the struggle of our people. When there are difficulties and problems we are always trying to find our friends and want to resolve the problems of our country along with our friends. Of course, as an Islamic and friendly country, Afghanistan, led by Esteemed Najibullah, is on our side and is our co-combatant and along with other friendly countries is trying to resolve our problems. Of course, the Palestinian issue and especially the uprising of the people of Palestine, which is in its fourth year, head the agenda.

The important issues which lie before us today are the Gulf and Afghanistan, which is our brother. You know that the Palestinian people led by Yasir 'Arafat have a constructive role to play in the peaceful solution of the Afghanistan issue. Of course, the other issue concerns the Gulf; powerful military forces are stationed in that region today. Regarding the Gulf issue, I presented a special message to Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on discussing a joint plan for the resolution of the Gulf issue. Fortunately, Esteemed Najibullah's views and mine on this matter are identical.

Esteemed Yasir 'Arafat gave me the honor to travel to Afghanistan to talk over this issue comprehensively. Along with the Gulf issue, the issue of Afghanistan is also important. Therefore, a need was felt to contact each other on these two very vital issues. I have full confidence that the Republic of Afghanistan has an important role in this regard. That was the main reason which encouraged us to come to Afghanistan, our second country, and to discuss the Gulf issue jointly. [passage indistinct]

Gulbuddin tried several times to contact a representative of the Afghan Government. When such contacts are made at the international and political level among enemies, then such talks and dialogues among friends mean nothing, as both sides are one. It is surprising that such a dialogue which takes place among two brothers, among the men from one nation, can be called treachery. He [as heard] should refer to history. This is not shameful for the people and the PLO; it is an honor to mediate among one nation to create unity in order to make them united.

This is not treason, but an honor and a necessity; we are trying, through whatever means, to resolve the question of Afghanistan by negotiations and compromise. Of course, every meeting must be held with discretion; we cannot expose it and it should not be exposed. I can

emphatically tell you, however, that such meetings with the representatives have taken place, and, in addition, other meetings with other groups have taken place; I am completely aware of them. Regarding what matters were discussed in these meetings, I must beg your pardon. We cannot divulge names, but Gulbuddin himself knows very well that he sent his senior colleagues for negotiations, and he also knows that high-ranking officials of the state of Afghanistan took part in this negotiations.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Khalid] Unfortunately, what Gulbuddin has said is far from reality. What Yasir 'Arafat and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said in the presence of Benazir Bhutto—former prime minister of Pakistan—and a number of her political and military advisors is that you, the opponents of the Republic of Afghanistan, tried for many years to resolve the question of Afghanistan through political means. You failed in this path, however, and you have continued to fight during recent years. You should, therefore, confess that esteemed Najibullah and the Republic of Afghanistan have with complete determination stood against you and bravely defended the country. It is now time for you, filled with courage, to welcome the efforts for peace in Afghanistan, especially when a propitious time has come for you: The Soviet Union has withdrawn its forces under the Geneva accords.

In front of Benazir Bhutto, Yasir 'Arafat told him this and asked him, could you seize power through the use of force? When Gulbuddin could not answer the question, Yasir 'Arafat told him he should have mercy on the people and not shed their blood any more. Yasir 'Arafat told Hekmatyar, you should not rule (!flocks) of widows and the heads of Afghan children. I remember that Hekmatyar told Yasir 'Arafat: You are supporting Najibullah and Afghanistan. Yasir 'Arafat replied: Actually, I have come for your salvation, and it is my political responsibility, as a leader of the Muslim people of Palestine, to carry out my humane and ethical duty and save you. We are confident of Najibullah's support. You need to be rescued, not Najibullah.

Statements attributed to Yasir 'Arafat on being kind to a victorious leader were never uttered. Esteemed Najibullah has succeeded in peaceful proposals and his military resistance. Kindness should be bestowed on those who are on the verge of defeat. It is the defeated who should be helped, not the victor. I wish Hekmatyar had been sincere and precise in his statements. The desire of all of us and the people of Palestine is for peace to return to Afghanistan, to see Afghanistan free, prosperous, and peaceful so that it will support us against our Zionist enemies.

Contact With Hekmatyar Group Detailed

LD1312214290 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1650 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Statement by Ghulam Sarwar Yuresh, head of the Press Office and Presidency spokesman, at briefing in Kabul on 13 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed domestic and foreign journalists, I want to inform you that today Abu-Khalid, special envoy of Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the executive committee of the PLO, gave a televised interview in Kabul. Among other issues, Abu-Khalid spoke about the repeated meetings which have taken place between the representatives of the Republic of Afghanistan and the representatives of so-called Hezb-e Islami [Islamic Party] of Hekmatyar. In his assertions, His Excellency Abu-Khalid confirmed that a meeting took place in Baghdad—with the mediation of the PLO—between representatives of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Hezb-e Islami of Hekmatyar.

I want to give you additional information on this in a statement from the presidential office of the Republic of Afghanistan:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Having full confidence in the national reconciliation policy, the Republic of Afghanistan has always tried by various channels to establish contacts and hold negotiations with all the sides involved, and by this means pave the way for understanding and reconciliation to end the war and ensure a nationwide peace. In line with these efforts, various contacts have been conducted at various levels with the opposition parties, formations, circles, and personalities during which issues related to the country's present and future were discussed; preliminary understanding was achieved with a number of them. It was in line with these contacts that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, paid a visit to Geneva from 19 to 23 November and conferred with a number of opposition leaders and activists resident in various countries. This has brought considerable hope as a first step toward direct talks to achieve national understanding. A number of leaders of the opposition extremists have reacted quickly and roughly to the Geneva talks and meetings; they consider negotiations with the Republic of Afghanistan as treachery to the cause of holy war. In particular, representatives of the so-called Hezb-e Islami of Afghanistan, led by Hekmatyar, have condemned with great fury other opposition groups and parties for their contacts with the government and have threatened them. This hypocritical and untruthful method practiced by Hekmatyar has forced the Republic of Afghanistan to inform our compatriots and the world about a number of facts and truths on contacts made with various opposition circles.

As esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, said in his speech delivered in the founding congress of the Unity of Peace Front, the Hezb-e Islami of Gulbuddin has contacted the Republic of Afghanistan more than any other opposition group and has held meetings with the representatives of the state. In his speech, the esteemed president of Afghanistan honored the earlier understanding which existed in this connection and avoided giving detailed accurate information on the

mentioned contacts, and he invited Hekmatyar to confess himself that his representatives had talks and contacts with the representatives of the state. Recently, however, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, in an interview with the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY in Peshawar, shamelessly denied the truth about the mentioned contacts, and even slandered and accused His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the executive committee of the PLO.

As Hekmatyar has reversed fact and fiction in his interview in connection with His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat's intervention, the government of the Republic of Afghanistan will now expose one specific instance of contacts and negotiations that took place between the government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Hezb-e Islami of Gulbuddin. We are doing this in order to inform our compatriots and the world public.

Upon an approach made by Hekmatyar at the invitation of His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, a high-ranking delegation from the government of the Republic of Afghanistan—including Sulayman La'eq, Najmuddin Kawiani, Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, and Ghulam Faruq Yaqubi—travelled to Iraq several days before the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, and met and held talks at the residence of the PLO ambassador in Baghdad with a high-ranking delegation of Gulbuddin, including Abdul Qadir Karyab, political assistant of the Hezb-e Islami, and Ghayrat Khan Bahir, special secretary and son-in-law of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

The first round of talks was held in the presence of His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat; His Excellency Abu-Khalid; his adviser; and His Excellency 'Uzam al-Ahmad, PLO ambassador in Baghdad.

The talks with the participation of the PLO ambassador in Baghdad were held in the PLO embassy and the al-Rashid Hotel in Baghdad.

The Afghan side presented to the other side the draft peace proposal of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan, namely the participation of all interested Afghan forces for ending the war and achieving speedy peace, and explained to the other side the policies and practical measures of the government in this respect.

The delegation representing Gulbuddin Hekmatyar expressed satisfaction at the convocation and proceedings of the talks and regarded them as thawing the ice between the parties. The delegation of Hekmatyar promised to study carefully the draft proposals of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan and to state their views concerning them at the coming meetings.

In citing this instance as an example of meetings and talks between the representatives of the Republic of Afghanistan and the so-called Hezb-e Islami Hekmatyar, the government of the Republic of Afghanistan hopes that every doubt or suspicion, if it existed in public opinion in this respect, will be removed.

If Gulbuddin Hekmatyar stubbornly shows the facts differently again, the government of the Republic of Afghanistan will be forced to expose further information concerning similar contacts and talks between the two parties.

If contacts and talks with the government of the Republic of Afghanistan are treason in the view of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, under these circumstances other leaders of the formations and opposition groups have the right to make such allegations against Hekmatyar himself because it was he who on the one hand, with the cooperation of the intelligence service of Pakistan—the ISI—was making preparation for major attacks on the cities of Afghanistan, and on the other hand was holding talks with the government of the Republic of Afghanistan to reach a secret deal, negating other Afghan groups.

The government of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly believes that no other way exists except the path of understanding and reconciliation by holding talks for attaining peace.

Those who stubbornly deny talks, or want to organize them as a hypocritical deal in the absence of other Afghan forces, surely have no other objective except fanning the war and continuing the fratricide in the country, thus trying to delay the restoration of peace. Thanks for your attention.

63 Regime Personnel Killed in Mujahidin Attacks

BK1312140890 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 13 Dec 90 p 10

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 12—Sixty three regime personnels were killed and heavy losses were inflicted on the regime forces when Mujahidin attacked the security belt of Kabul on December 11, reports Afghan News Agency.

Mujahidin attacked the regime security cordon at Qal'eh-ye Seddiq, Qal'eh-ye Safar, Qal'eh-ye Nabi, and Jangal Ali Shah with heavy artillery yesterday and inflicted big losses to the regime.

Relief Department Compensates War Victims

LD1312073190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0443 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Dec 12 [date as received], BAKHTAR—The Relief Disaster Department of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, has distributed Afs [afghanis] 1,370,000 over a number of those families which dears and nears have been injured by the extremists rocket attackings in different precincts of the Kabul city today.

The members of the said families highly appreciated the state timely assistance and strongly condemned extremists for their barbaric actions.

Bangladesh

Former Deputy Prime Minister Arrested 13 Dec

BK1312155390 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Former Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hussain has been arrested and sent to the Central Jail in Dhaka today. Shah Moazzam Hussain is among nearly 24 associates of the ousted government against whom warrant of arrests have been issued. He was arrested from a house in the capital.

PRC President Felicitates Acting President

BK1312144090 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh
External Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Chinese President Yang Shangkun has felicitated Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on his assumption of office as the acting president of Bangladesh. In a message he wished unity, stability, and prosperity of Bangladesh and happiness of its people.

India

USSR Agrees To Continue Supplying Crude Oil

BK1412085590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The Soviet Union has agreed to maintain supplies of crude oil to India at 4.5 million tons, despite a drastic cut of about 50 percent in its exports and fall in production. This has been announced at the end of the trade talks between the two countries for the next year in New Delhi. The two sides also finalized the trade plan with a turnover of about 9,400 crore rupees, which will be 12 percent more than the current year. India will mainly export agriculture, leather, and engineering goods, chemicals and textiles to the Soviet Union. The major items of imports from the Soviet Union will include machinery, crude oil, and petroleum products.

Iraq Allows Asians To Leave Via Land Routes

BK1412083790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Iraq has allowed 2,000 Asian nationals, including 700 Indians, to leave for home en route Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan. The stranded Indians have now been allowed to take their cars along with them.

Pakistan Statement on Communal Riots 'Regretted'

BK1312162190 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] India has accused Pakistan of interference in its internal affairs and said that such a policy is not conducive to promoting friendly relations. Reacting to a Pakistan Foreign Office statement on the communal disturbances in the country, an External Affairs Ministry

spokesman said it violates the spirit of the Simla Agreement and accepted norms of interstate conduct. He regretted that Pakistan issued the statement soon after the constructive exchanges between the prime ministers of India and Pakistan during the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Maldives. The spokesman said that Pakistan should rather work for establishing friendly bilateral relations and peace and stability in the region.

Governor Says Army in Punjab for Winter Exercise

BK1312161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr. Virendra Verma, has said that the Army units are present in some border areas of Punjab for winter exercise only. He said the deployment of these Army units behind BSF [Border Security Force] force is aimed at effectively checking the incidents of infiltration and smuggling from across the border. Presiding over the meeting of the state advisory council in Chandigarh today, Mr. Verma admitted that the state administration has not been able to provide adequate security to the employees of Akashvani [All India Radio—AIR] and Doordarshan [television]. Strongly condemning the killing of Chandigarh AIR station director, Mr. R.K. Talib, he criticized the human rights organizations for their failure to condemn this cowardly act.

Curfew Imposed Near Punjab International Border

BK1412092490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] In Punjab, night curfew has been imposed in the five-km belt of the international border in Ferozepore District. The curfew will remain in force from 1700 [1130 GMT] in the evening to 0600 in the morning till the 9th of next month.

In Punjab, the bundh [strike] call today given by panthic committee-Jafarwal and supported by some Akali Dal factions and some other organizations has evoked mixed response. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the impact of the bundh was almost complete in the districts of Gurdaspur, Ferozepore, Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Rupar, and Bhatinda. In other places, the response was mixed. While rail traffic has not been affected, the bus services have been adversely affected. Educational institutions at most of the places have been closed. The state government has made elaborate security arrangements in view of the bundh call today. The call was given in protest against the alleged deployment of the Army in some border areas.

Meanwhile, the official spokesman clarified that the Army was present in some border areas to carry out its own exercises and at a few places assisting BSF [Border Security Forces] in checking infiltration, smuggling of arms and ammunition and narcotics. He clarified that

the Army is not assisting the civil administration in the maintenance of law and order in these areas.

32 Die in Clashes After Secessionist Arrested

BK1312170090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1655 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Srinagar, India Dec 13 (AFP)—Thirty-two people died in gunbattles between Indian troopers and Moslem militants that flared after the arrest of a top Kashmiri secessionist leader, officials said here Thursday.

Security officials in Srinagar, the urban hub of the Kashmiri Moslem militancy, said 15 militants and seven paramilitary troopers had died in a dozen gunbattles in the region late Wednesday.

Ten civilians described as supporters of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), a hardcore militant group leading the secessionist campaign in Kashmir, were also killed in the firing in Srinagar and Anantnag.

The violence flared late Wednesday as federal troopers arrested top JKLF leader Altaf Bhatt in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, authorities said.

Militants armed with carbines, grenades and AK-47 assault rifles simultaneously attacked several security bunkers, drawing retaliatory fire, they said. The firefights continued overnight and spilled into Thursday. At least 19 more people, many of them bystanders, were injured as the militants fired from rooftops, cars and store windows at the sand-bagged bunkers, the officials said.

"It was as if a regular war has begun," said one civilian witness, adding that the militants attacked both paramilitary positions and supply convoys.

The militants also hurled bombs and damaged eight houses of people who did not support the JKLF's armed uprising against Indian troopers, officials said.

Four companies totalling 520 troopers of the elite border security force were deployed in Srinagar to reinforce the thousands of paramilitary men already positioned, sources said.

Militants Thursday shot dead moderate Moslem politician Mohammad Sayeed Masudi in his home in the summer capital's Ganderbal District, the officials said. The assassins fired from point blank range before fleeing.

Mr. Masudi, 87, was the former general secretary of the regional national conference party which ruled the frontier state Kashmir until New Delhi brought it under direct federal rule in January to quell an escalating militancy. Mr. Masudi, who had actively taken part in India's campaign for independence from British colonial rule, supported Kashmir's 1947 accession to New Delhi which Moslem militants want to undo.

The attack came after Moslem militants travelling in vehicles fitted with machine-guns raided a security post in the centre of Srinagar. The militants swooped down on Lal

Chowk in broad daylight and began spraying machine-gun and rifle fire, triggering panic in the busy area.

More than 2,000 people have died so far this year in the bloody campaign for an independent Kashmir. India accuses Pakistan of fueling the Moslem unrest. Islamabad supports the homeland campaign, but denies providing sanctuary or arms to the militants.

Situation in Violence-Hit States Detailed

BK1312125490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, at least eight deaths were reported from different parts of the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad during the curfew relaxation period today. Reports of arson and looting have also come. A police official told our Hyderabad correspondent that 14 persons were injured in fresh cases of stabbing.

In Uttar Pradesh, police patrolling has been intensified in Aligarh city as the situation is reported to be tense. Two police constables were stabbed when a police picket posted near the university was attacked by an unruly mob this morning. The situation in the curfew-bound areas of Meerut and Varanasi is reported peaceful. In the curfew-bound 10 police station areas of Kanpur, the situation is tense but under control.

In Gujarat, the situation in Ahmadabad city is reported to be peaceful. In the Behrampur area, however, the police had to burst several tear gas shells and open fire to disperse an unruly mob which indulged in brickbattling and arson.

Army Deployed; Curfews Imposed

BK1412085390 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] In Gujarat, the Army has been deployed in Gomtipur, Bapunagar, and Kanglapith area of Ahmadabad since last night to assist the local police. A decision in this regard was taken last night at a high-level meeting presided over by the chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel. Eight persons were killed and 60 injured in violent incidents in Ahmadabad city yesterday. Incidents of stone-throwing and arson have been reported from Daryapur, Gaikwar, Haveli, and Gomtipur areas; however, there is no report of any casualty since last night from the city. The situation is stated to be tense, but under control. In Baroda city, one person was stabbed to death yesterday. An indefinite curfew has been imposed after midnight last night in the areas under the jurisdiction of Wadi city and Panigate police stations.

In Uttar Pradesh, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in Jahangirpur town of Bulandshahr District, following violent incidents. Eleven persons were reported killed in the incidents last evening. Additional police force has been deployed in the affected town. The situation is

stated to be tense, but under control. In the curfew-bound areas of Aligarh city, Varanasi, and Meerut the situation by and large remained peaceful last night. An official spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent this morning that no untoward incident has been reported from any part of the curfew-bound areas of these cities since last night. The spokesman said that two persons are reported to have been shot dead in separate incidents in Meerut yesterday. Police patrolling has been intensified in the affected areas. Army jawans [soldiers] continue to assist the district administration in the sensitive areas of Aligarh city to maintain peace. The situation in the (Ganj Dundwara) town in Etah District remains peaceful. No untoward incident has been reported during the past three days. Meanwhile, all the educational institutions are being opened today in Etah District, barring (Ganj Dundwara) town.

In Andhra Pradesh, the law and order situation in the old city of Hyderabad and the neighboring Rangareddy District is tense, but under control. No untoward incident has been reported since last night. The police authorities in Hyderabad and Rangareddy District have decided not to give any relaxation in the curfew today in the old city area and in all the 25 villages of Rangareddy District.

The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Dr. Chenna Reddy, has denied that he had decided to resign. Earlier reports said that Dr. Reddy took the decision to step down after he got in touch with his emissaries in New Delhi and consultations with his senior cabinet colleagues late on Wednesday night. A party functionary told newsmen in New Delhi that the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, is likely to take a decision on the Andhra Pradesh affairs today. Various political parties have been demanding the resignation of the chief minister in the wake of communal riots in the state.

Dalai Lama Calls For Confederation With PRC

BK1312151090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1504 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 13 (AFP)—The Dalai Lama called Thursday for a confederation of Tibet and China and said he no longer demanded a homeland for the Tibetans, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The Dalai Lama said a complete separation of Tibet from China was not necessary. PTI said, adding that the Tibetan Buddhist leader instead suggested a "loose confederation" of the two countries.

But the Dalai Lama, who won a Nobel Prize last year for peace, warned that his people's determination to fight "Chinese repression" would become "stronger and stronger if more repressive measures were adopted by Beijing," PTI said.

The comments reinforced his statement in August that he would settle for autonomy within China. The Dalai Lama reportedly said in Madras that his suggestion was

aimed at finding a "middle way" to change the situation in Tibet without demanding complete separation from China.

"Historically, geographically, culturally and linguistically Tibet was a separate country (from China), however after the Chinese occupied it, a lot of things have changed," the Dalai Lama said. He reportedly explained that his suggestion aimed only at changing the "present arrangement."

Speaking of the winds of change blowing over Eastern Europe, he said he was confident the changing atmosphere would definitely have an impact on the Chinese leadership. "But it would take five to 10 years," the Dalai Lama said, adding that China would wait to see the success of the changes in Eastern Europe before adopting them.

The Dalai Lama, who fled to India after the failed anti-Chinese uprising in Tibet in late 1950s, said he was doubtful about the response from the Chinese authorities to his proposals. If Beijing agreed to his suggestions the Tibetan people would benefit, he added. "My proposals for peaceful negotiations on the Tibetan issue two years back did not get any concrete response from China," PTI quoted him as saying.

The Dalai Lama also reiterated his demand that Tibet be declared a zone of peace and should be demilitarised, the agency reported. "The immeasurable human rights violation and Chinese demographic oppression are two things to which immediate attention has to be paid," the Dalai Lama was quoted as saying.

Some 100,000 followers of the Dalai Lama also followed their leader when he fled to India in 1959. They have been living in the northern Indian town of Dharamsala. His government-in-exile is not recognised by India or any other country.

81 LTTE 'Militants' Arrested in Tamil Nadu

BK1412132690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, 81 suspected LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants have been arrested in Salem, Trichy, and Madurai. A state government press release issued in Madras today said that the operation is part of the understanding between the center and the state government to monitor the movement of Sri Lankan militants and bring them under control.

Swiss Authorities Send Documents on Bofors Probe

BK1312161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] today received the documents relating to the investigations conducted by the Swiss authorities in Zurich in the Bofors case. It may be recalled that India had requested for the documents in a letter rogatory issued by the

special judge, Delhi, on the 7th of February. The CBI is to produce these documents in the court of Mr. B.S. Aggarwal, special judge, Delhi, tomorrow.

Prime Minister Says Bofors Inquiry To Continue

*BK1412130190 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Text] The prime minister has said that the Bofors inquiry will be fully pursued and the transfer of officials connected with the inquiry does not indicate any change in the government's policy. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was addressing the press conference in Lucknow this evening.

To a question, he said that Dr. Sanjay Singh [minister of state for communications] has been proved innocent by the court and the appeal in the High Court by the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] is a routine matter in which the government has nothing to do.

The prime minister said that the proposed package of programs in Punjab will include political as well as administrative steps. Asked whether the administrative step will include the change of the governor also, the prime minister replied: may be. Mr. Chandra Shekhar is considering all suggestions, including legislation to restore the status of religious places as at the time of independence.

Earlier, immediately on arrival at Lucknow this morning on a brief visit, the prime minister reviewed the law and order situation in the state and held discussions with the chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav. Mr. Chandra Shekhar is to take stock of the law and order situation in Punjab also at a high-level meeting in Chandigarh this evening.

AIR Details Language Broadcast Pattern

*BK1312163890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] It has been officially stated that the stations of All India Radio [AIR] are broadcasting most of the programs in the principal language of the area concerned. They also devote a small quantum of broadcast time for programs in other languages to meet the needs of the local minority language groups. Hindi bulletins are also relayed for this purpose. Clarifying certain misunderstandings in the wake of recent incidents in Punjab, the AIR Directorate said in a press release in New Delhi that this policy is followed by the Jullundur station as well. Besides producing programs, the news in Punjabi, the station relays some national news bulletins. It also produces programs in Hindi just like at other stations. The release points out that programs in Punjabi are broadcast from Delhi, Jammu, and Srinagar for the benefit of local listeners. The press note says that AIR Chandigarh is a commercial center of Vividh Bharati. This centrally produced service is broadcast simultaneously from 29 centers and as such, the program pattern is uniformly the

same. However, each center is provided a local slot of about 60-minute duration to put out music programs in the regional or local languages. The press note makes it clear that Vividh Bharati Service is an additional channel for listeners and its broadcast is not at the cost of programs in the regional languages.

Iran

Reportage on Algerian President Benjedid's Visit

Paper Welcomes Visit, Initiative

*LD1312091490 Tehran IRNA in English 0819 GMT
13 Dec 90*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—An Iranian daily Thursday welcomed the imminent visit to Tehran of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and expressed the hope that his peace initiative for the Persian Gulf will differ significantly from the previous ones.

The Persian daily 'ABRAR' said in its editorial that the visit to Tehran has created hopes that he is carrying proposals for resolving the Persian Gulf crisis peacefully.

Bendjedid who just concluded visits to Jordan and Iraq submitted his proposal to King Husayn of Jordan and President Saddam Husayn of Iraq. However, so far no reaction has been made neither by Jordan nor by Iraq.

The paper stated that probably the Algerian president may want to know of Iran's views before making his proposal public.

The daily added that Iran's firm and inalterable stand vis-a-vis the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and presence of foreign forces in the region, its outright condemnation of both acts of aggression, has given Iran a determining role and thus attaches a special significance to the visit.

Seeks 'Peaceful Solution'

*LD1312174890 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT
13 Dec 90*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—President Chadli Bendjedid said here today that Algiers is exploring ways of finding a peaceful solution to the current crisis in the Persian Gulf.

Speaking to reporters at Mehrabad International Airport, the Algerian head of state maintained that regional security is the responsibility of regional states. Bendjedid, who is on his first official visit to the Islamic Republic, will discuss Tehran-Algiers cooperation as well as regional and international issues with senior Iranian officials.

President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, greeting his Algerian counterpart at the airport, termed Bendjedid's trip to Tehran a welcome development, in view of the present situation of Algeria among Muslim states. "Mr.

Bendjedid has certainly felt the need for solving the regional crisis through peaceful means," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

He said Iran has also stepped up efforts over the past few days in this regard and established contacts with different countries. He expressed hope that the region will be spared from a war.

The crisis, sparked by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait on August 2, has been worsened by the growing U.S.-led alien presence in the Persian Gulf region.

Before coming to Iran Bendjedid had discussed the Persian Gulf crisis with Jordanian and Iraqi heads of state. He is to leave Tehran for Muscat Friday.

Makes Arrival Statement

NC1312184490 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid arrived in Tehran at the head of a delegation this afternoon on an official two-day visit. He was received at the airport by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. This visit is part of the Algerian president's tour of the region for talks with leaders of a number of countries with the aim of ending the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait peacefully before the expiration of the deadline set by the UN Security Council.

On arrival at the Mehrabad International Airport in Tehran, Bendjedid made a statement to our correspondent on the goals of his visit. He said:

[Begin Bendjedid recording] My visit today is one of friendship and work. The visit will enable me to meet with my brother the president to exchange views on various issues, especially the topics of the hour. We recognize Iran's importance vis-a-vis the complicated issues facing the Gulf and other regions. On this occasion, I wish to hold a dialogue with my brother officials in Iran, foremost among whom is my brother and friend President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and to exchange views and consult on several issues of interest to the two countries in view of my conviction of Iran's importance in international forums. I thank my brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the other brother officials for this hospitality. Algeria is following your steps and wishes to open new pages in cooperation in all areas. God willing, our efforts will benefit our peoples and Islamic nation. Thank you. [end recording]

Talks With President

LD1312215790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The first round of talks between the Iranian and Algerian presidents were held on Thursday in the presidential office. The talks were also attended by Mr. Habibi, the first deputy president; Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian, minister of heavy industries; Ahmed

Ghazali, Algerian foreign minister; and ambassadors and some officials from both countries.

Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, expressing his pleasure at being in Iran and his thanks for the warm welcome accorded him, outlined his views on regional and international affairs and those of the Islamic world.

In his remarks, the Algerian president referred to the recent crisis in the Persian Gulf and the outcome of his Middle East trip. Stressing the decisive role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Islamic world and the Persian Gulf region, he emphasized the need to find a peaceful solution to the present difficulties of the region. After explaining the latest political and social developments in Algeria and the changes in the Arab Maghreb, Mr. Bendjedid called for the further expansion of bilateral relations in the areas of common interest between the two Islamic countries of Iran and Algeria.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, then welcomed Mr. Chadli Bendjedid and expressed thanks for his explanations and the expression of his views on international and bilateral relations. He added: We have always been very eager to meet your excellency, and we believe that Algeria, due to her long record of struggle against arrogance in the path of independence, is the most appropriate country which can have consultations and cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran for saving the Islamic world from the evil of blasphemy [kofr].

Regarding bilateral issues, the president of our country expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's interest in the issues of the African Continent, especially Algeria, and added: We have a positive evaluation regarding the recent developments in Algeria. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, welcoming the expansion of relations with Algeria in all fields, expressed the necessity of consultation and unity of views among the Islamic countries in solving their problems. He expressed his hope that the recent difficulty in the Persian Gulf region will be solved in a peaceful way and in the interest of the Muslims.

Meets With Khamene'i

LD1312220990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, who arrived in Tehran on Thursday evening to pay an official visit to our country, has been received by His Eminence Aya-tollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and the world Muslims' vali-ye amr [guardian of the cause].

The meeting was headed by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president; Mr. Habibi, the first vice president; and a number of the two countries' ministers. Addressing the president of Algeria, the honorable leader elaborated on the arrogance's aggressions against Islamic countries and governments and said that the resolve of the Palestinian problem and the survival of the homeless nation of that

occupied country depend on cooperation and coordination among muslim nations.

The leader of the Islamic revolution stressed the need for sincere and steadfast bonds between Muslim nations. He graciously said: The bright revolutionary history of your country shows that the Algerian martyrs who engaged in holy war were inspired by Islam and martyred for Islam. From our viewpoint this is very valuable. The natural and necessary bond between us is revolutionary Islam, on the basis of which both countries are able to engage in sincere cooperation regarding significant issues of the world of Islam.

In his remarks His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i also expressed the hope that the cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Algeria will reach fruitful and constructive results regarding important Islamic issues, such as Palestine and the Persian gulf crisis.

Mr. Chadli Bendjedid then expressed pleasure at his meeting with the honorable leader. Addressing him as a brother, friend, and imam he said: Our relations are based on our Islamic solidarity and our membership of an Islamic nation. The Islamic world of today is at a sensitive juncture and our enemies endeavor to distort the feature of the Muslim ummah. Therefore, we should provide the possibilities for further solidarity between the two Muslim nations of Iran and Algeria in order to defend the Islamic ummah and civilization.

The president of Algeria pointed to the necessity for the employment of all political and moral abilities to serve the interests of the Islamic ummah. After warning aliens against distorting the Islamic civilization, he said: The Algerian nation, as a member of the body of the Islamic ummah, has always served Islam and will endeavor toward the exaltation of the word of God. We should become closer in the economic and cultural fields than in the past, and ensure that our cooperation serve the Islamic ummah.

Calls For Muslim Solution

LD1412113990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, who has come to our country at the head of a high-ranking political delegation, this morning went to Behesht-e Zahra [Tehran's main cemetery where Khomeyni is also buried] and, by placing a wreath on Khomeyni's tomb, expressed his respects to the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, sanctified by his noble soul. The Algerian president who was being accompanied by Mr. Nezhad-Hoseyniyan, the minister of heavy industries, on entering the sacred shrine was welcomed by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, in his meeting with Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, Haj Seyyed Ahmad

Khomeyni stressed the need for the unity of Islamic and revolutionary countries against the conspiracies of world arrogance. He said: Islamic Iran attaches a great deal of importance to the Algerian revolution. We believe that the common Islamic features existing between the two countries are the most important factors in the bond of unity between the Iranian and Algerian nations.

He added: Under the present critical and sensitive situation, the Muslims from all over the world should stand against their big and dangerous enemies with unity, brotherhood, strength, and courage. We hope that the unity of the Muslims will be realized in light of their common religious, political, and cultural beliefs.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: The people and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran are trying to follow the path of Imam Khomeyni, God's mercy be upon him, which is the path of unity, brotherhood, and liberty of the Muslims, so that the political interests of the Muslims throughout the world, especially in the Persian Gulf region, will not be sacrificed for the avarice of world arrogance in its entirety. The issue of the Persian Gulf region should be solved by the countries involved, and arrogance has no right to interfere in the differences among the countries of the region.

He emphasized: We believe that the political geography of the Persian Gulf should not be changed under any circumstances, and the military forces of the Western countries should also withdraw from the region. The Persian Gulf region is an Islamic region and only the Muslim people of this region are entitled to reach decisions about their own fate.

Then Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, referred to the cooperation and help of the Islamic countries for solving the Persian Gulf crisis, saying: In the name of the Algerian nation, I assure you that the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria is anxious to open the doors of fruitful relations with all Islamic countries for solving the problems of Islamic countries.

He added: Now the time has come for the Islamic ummah to get closer together and to forget former differences and pains. He added: In the face of monolithic world imperialism which wishes to impose its demands on the world with strength, and in view of the recent dangerous developments, the Islamic ummah should get closer together. Most certainly, a united ummah can defend its civilization and its beliefs; however, if we are scattered, the enemies will easily achieve their aims.

At the end of this meeting Mr. Chadi Bendjedid signed the memorial book of the sacred shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni.

Advocates 'Peaceful Solution'

LD1412140190 Tehran IRNA in English 1215 GMT
14 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA—The heads of state of Algeria and the Islamic Republic underlined the need to find a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis and prevent the outbreak of war, during their second round of talks here Friday morning.

President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria, who arrived here Thursday [13 December], said consultation with his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on ways of averting a war in the Persian Gulf was necessary.

He also briefed Hashemi-Rafsanjani on social reforms underway in Algeria and pinpointed the importance of people's role in making decisions.

The Algerian president called for promotion of Tehran-Algiers ties in political, economic and cultural fields.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "we admire new changes in Algeria that are moving that country towards democracy and further contribution of people to decision-making."

The hojjat ol-islam underlined the need for solidarity and unity among Muslim states in the confrontation with international Zionism and the plots of global arrogance.

He expressed hope that relations between the two countries would further expand in the future.

Says 'Difficulties' Prevent Solution

LD1412140590 Tehran IRNA in English 1242 GMT
14 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and his entourage left Tehran today at the end of their two day official visit and talks with Iranian officials on ways of finding a peaceful settlement for the Persian Gulf crisis.

In a brief talk with reporters at Mehrabad Airport, Bendjedid said his tour of regional countries was aimed at peacefully resolving the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait but "some difficulties exist regarding a final solution." He did not elaborate.

The Algerian president who visited Amman and Baghdad before coming to Tehran, said he was opposed to any indifference towards the crisis and felt confident that such visits would help bring closer the views of the opposing sides.

However, he made it clear "the Persian Gulf crisis is not the sole problem of the Muslim world but rather the Palestinian uprising is another plight of Muslims to which serious attention should be paid."

He expressed hope that his Tehran trip would boost relations between the two Muslim people of Iran and Algeria.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who saw off his Algerian counterpart, told reporters the Persian Gulf crisis, and military build-up of foreign forces in the region were among topics discussed between the two sides.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he and President Bendjedid also reviewed the atrocities of the illegal Zionist state against the Palestinian Muslims and the role Muslim states should play in the intifadah in occupied Palestine.

While in Tehran, President Bendjedid met with the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and held two rounds of talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Concludes Visit, Leaves for Oman

LD1412132390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpts] In the Gulf, in Tehran, which is the third stop of President Chadli Bendjedid's Middle East tour, reports note that the views of President Chadli Bendjedid and Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani were identical during their talks on a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis in Tehran last night. [passage omitted]

After a second round of political talks with President Rafsanjani, the presidential aircraft, carrying President Chadli Bendjedid, left for Muscat, the Omani capital, which is the fourth leg of his tour.

Velayati Returns From 'Fruitful' Ankara Visit

LD1312234190 Tehran IRNA in English 2306 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Ankara, Dec. 13, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a press conference held at the end of his two-day official visit Thursday described his talks with Turkish leaders as "very constructive and fruitful."

Velayati who flew to Tehran Thursday, said the talks focused on the Persian Gulf crisis sparked by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and ways of expanding Tehran-Ankara ties.

In response to a question, Velayati reiterated that Iran and Turkey shared common views on the territorial integrity of Iraq, favored a peaceful solution to the crisis and demanded restoration of Kuwait's independence.

Velayati dismissed any change in the geographical map of the region as "very dangerous", adding "we consider an outbreak of war in this sensitive region detrimental to the interests of regional countries as we regard Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as a wrong act."

Asked about allegations of transfer of contrabands to Iraq via Iranian border, Velayati said "We arrested some suspects in this connection two months ago and ever since we have not had any other case."

He said issues related to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) grouping Iran, Turkey and Pakistan was among other topics discussed by the two sides.

The foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Pakistan are to meet in Islamabad next month for talks on tripartite cooperation regarding the security of the region and on activating the organization.

During his stay, Velayati conferred with the Turkish president and prime minister in addition to holding three rounds of talks with his Turkish counterpart.

Comments on Talks

NC1412075690 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
0430 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Remarks by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to station correspondent upon returning to Tehran on 13 December—recorded]

[Text] It was an official visit at the invitation of Mr. Alptemecin, the Turkish foreign minister. In the course of this visit, three rounds of talks were held with him, and one round of talks was held with our representatives on the joint commission in Turkey. We also met the Turkish president, parliament speaker, and prime minister.

In view of the extremely important developments in the Persian Gulf and the role that Iran and Turkey can play in safeguarding regional security, as well as the exchange of views which has taken place earlier at various levels, especially at the presidential level, basic talks were held with Turkish officials on the Persian Gulf situation and ways and means of seeking an amicable settlement to the crisis.

Both countries deeply believe—and Turkey also concurs with us—that this crisis should be terminated amicably and in a just manner. Iraq should withdraw completely from Kuwaiti territory, and foreign forces should also depart the region. What is certain is that the security of the region should be in the hands of the regional countries. As you can see, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made numerous moves in the past few days, the most important point of which is the peaceful settlement of the current Persian Gulf crisis.

We are opposed to any confrontation in this sensitive area, as we would consider it pernicious to regional states' interests. Just as we consider Iraq's occupation of Kuwaiti territory to be wrong, we also believe that the Iraqi forces should evacuate all Kuwaiti territory in the shortest possible time. God willing, these talks and political moves will continue with other countries, especially in view of the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran plays a key role in safeguarding the security of the region.

Sudan's Al-Bashir Continues Visit to Tehran

Discusses Political Stability

NC1212193090 *Tehran International Service*
in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Sudanese President General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir has emphasized that the purpose of his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran is to strengthen the ties between the two countries at this serious stage which our Islamic nation is going through. This requires further cohesiveness and solidarity to ward off the dangers surrounding us as an Islamic nation that is the target of the powers of international arrogance.

In an interview with our radio correspondent during a news conference, he expressed his desire to benefit from Iran's experience in order to apply the rules of the Islamic sharia in Sudan.

In response to a question on the crisis in the Persian Gulf and Sudan's position toward this crisis, Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir stressed that his country did not back Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. He said:

[Begin al-Bashir recording] We absolutely do not and did not support the occupation of Kuwait. We believe that disputes among countries must be solved in accordance with the international laws within the international organizations, and that force must not be used in settling these disputes. [end recording]

Regarding the domestic situation in Sudan, particularly in the south, and the role of the foreign powers in this respect, Sudanese President Gen. al-Bashir disclosed that lately the rebel forces started to move about in areas to which they previously had no access and which we considered as secure borders. He added:

[Begin al-Bashir recording] Concerning the situation in northern Sudan and Sudan's political stability, we can say that we enjoy full political stability and the revolution in Sudan is strongly backed by the Sudanese people. However, there are leaders and figures who lost some of their privileges and prestige and whose interests were harmed by the outbreak of the revolution, and there are attempts to obstruct the march of the revolution, particularly by some ideologically oriented parties which are against Islam and the Islamic tendency. We consider them a weak opposition that has no direct effect on the regime's course. A proof of this is the fact that the various youth and student organizations, which represent the most important sectors as far as stability goes, are now standing firmly in support of the revolution. As for the situation in the south, we are now being subjected to a ferocious onslaught. The rebel forces in the south are receiving unlimited support from all the forces hostile to Islam, including Western, ecclesiastical, communist, and other anti-Islam forces which fear the spread of Islam and the Islamic tendency and the establishment of an Islamic republic in Sudan. All these forces are now united in backing the rebel movement in southern

Sudan. Since the outbreak of the revolution, we have been successful in containing the rebel movement, but now, after a long lull, the rebellion has started to move very capably and from positions that were not previously open to it. Some countries opened their borders for the rebels to use as points of departure; these borders used to be secure areas for us. The rebels have achieved some success by surprising us from areas to which they previously had no access. [end recording]

Makes Press Statement

EA1312215490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The Sudanese-Iranian talks are ending today in the Iranian capital, Tehran, led by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, and the Islamic debater, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of Iran. Today's meeting will review the results of the meetings between the sides.

In a press statement, Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir called on Arab countries to move faster to contain the Gulf crisis peacefully to prevent the area from falling into the hands of colonialists. His excellency clarified that this cannot be achieved unless differences are buried and efforts are unified to back Palestine and [words indistinct]. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir confirmed Sudan's desire to (?improve) its relations with Islamic countries, especially Iran and Pakistan. He said Sudan (?expects) to benefit from its relations with Islamic countries to achieve development in Sudan.

In his speech to Sudanese students in Iran, his excellency said that federal rule, which is to be implemented by the revolution, is regarded as a basic component in the plans and programs of the government to achieve peace and stability in the country. His excellency also confirmed that the government is trying to purchase a small oil refinery to explore oil fields discovered in western Sudan. He said the revolution's efforts are continuing to protect the rest of the oil fields discovered and to expand oil investment in Sudan.

At the end of his speech, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir confirmed the National Salvation Revolution's determination to develop the strength of its Armed Forces and make them fit to defend the country and confront the rebellion.

In a separate development, the Islamic debater Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of Iran, confirmed his country's willingness to offer its experience to Islamic nations, especially African nations like Sudan. His excellency, in a press statement after the first round of talks between the Sudanese and Iranian sides, said that his country is continuing its 12-year struggle to attain reconstruction, making note of the assistance Iran had received during that period of (?hatred) [words indistinct] and (?sieges) imposed on Iran by the [word indistinct] states.

His excellency added that Iran had [words indistinct] alone, through which it gained valuable experiences in

creating national [words indistinct] which were able to create a free and stable life. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iran had suffered financial losses during its resistance against the colonial powers: about \$300 million. His excellency confirmed Iran's readiness to cooperate, especially with Sudan, as Sudan is spiritually close to Iran.

Majles, Guardians Council Clash Over Budget Bill

LD1012184190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Consultative Majles has announced: Following the expiration of the legal deadline for the Council of Guardians to declare its opinion on the supplementary budget bill of the country for the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] passed by the Majles on 5 Azar 1369 [26 November 1990], this bill was submitted for execution by the respected speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles to the respected president on the morning of 18 Azar [9 December].

The Public Relations Office of the Majles added that the information passed on by the esteemed Council of Guardians to the mass media ignored Principle 94 of the Constitution. According to that principle and to Article 139 of the Majles' internal constitution, the supplementary budget bill for the year 1369 has been submitted by the Majles for execution to the government, and the implementation of this bill, in accordance with the law, is obligatory from 18 Azar.

It should be mentioned that, when he contacted the head of the Council of Guardians, our reporter was informed that the Council of Guardians will discuss and decide on this matter in its session tomorrow.

*RESALAT Reports 23 Oct Majles Session

91AS0133A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
24 Oct 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Division—The Majles held an open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat.

In this session, after remarks by the representatives of Qa'em Shahr, Arak, and Qom, the Majles session was called to order. The following is the text of the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers, remarks by the deputy speaker, and resolutions passed by the Majles:

Saleh Rowhanizadeh, the Representative of the People of Qa'em-Shahr: In Order To Continue the Imam's Line, We Must Obey the Student of That Beloved and the Guardian of the Cause of the World Muslims, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i

The first pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Rowhanizadeh, who at the onset of his remarks stated:

Life is a war—a war against blasphemy, poverty, ignorance, foolishness, and selfish desires. The more man fights and moves forward, the more he shall develop. Develop in the direction of God. We live in an age when plunderers and international usurpers endeavor to destroy all the material and moral resources of man. Now, we live in a time when Lebanese and Palestinian brothers and sisters are being crushed under the deadly boots of world-devourers of the West and the East and, as they cry for freedom, they seek the help of humanity. However, when we see that the master of world imperialism stations its troops in the region as a political ultimatum and in order to realize its evil goals, all hearts are reminded of the valuable remarks of our late imam who said: "The Great Satan is America." However, he invited Muslims to an inseparable unity, in order to bring down this Satan to the dirt of abjectness and raise the glorious flag. That day is the day of justice, fairness, love, and affection, for which humanity awaits. When we see the secret of victory in the statements of our late imam, such as, "Muslim solidarity is in relentless struggle," we must consider it our obligation to endeavor so that this solidarity is better demonstrated among the revolutionary Muslims of Iran, and we shall fulfill our duties and obligations under the wise, prudent, and scholarly leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

While stating that up-to-date knowledge is the key to solving social problems, he said: Today, in the international arena, the development of industry, agriculture, and technology are tributary to comprehensive planning, in accordance with existing realities and the inherent resources of each country. It is such that it illuminates the light of the economic, social, and political future of the society so that all modes of production—ranging from capital, human resources, and management—can be fully utilized. Movement within the framework of the promising and growing Five-Year Plan, suggested by the executive branch—with the relentless efforts of His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the esteemed president—reveals a better and more hopeful future in which we might rebuild the destruction and, in the phases of economic rehabilitation, we can solve the problems of society through utilization of mechanisms that are especially in accordance with the prevailing knowledge.

The speaker added: Today, the unruly increase in prices weighs heavily on the shoulders of the deprived in the society (educators, workers, civil servants, and the majority of salary-earners), who have been present on the scene sincerely defending the revolution and the leadership. Regretfully, at times, they cannot very well secure a living. We ask the government to take appropriate action through various ministries—due to the present disproportionate wages of educators, workers, and civil servants with the inflation and price increases—so that the income of these deprived and oppressed sectors increases in line with the price increases.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Rowhanizadeh thanked the minister of labor and social affairs in connection with the follow-up of the Labor Law and expressed hope that, with the speedy ratification of the Labor Law by the Expediency Discernment Council, the Islamic Republic, as the greatest political and social system in the international arena, passes the most advanced laws in defense of workers' rights.

In this connection, he pointed out: Until the ratification of the Labor Law, employers should base their treatment of workers on humane behavior and noble Islamic conduct. They should seriously refrain from abusing their workers legitimate rights so that, God forbid, the impression of comparison with the previous regime does not arise—because that method of management, as practiced during the previous regime, will not be perpetual.

The representative of the people of Qa'em Shahr addressed the officials, the people, and the world Muslims, and said: As we had absolute obedience for His Eminence the late imam and his cause during his time, in order to continue the imam's line, we must obey his student, the exalted leadership, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the guardian of the cause of the world Muslims (as we do now). We are proud to surround and burn in the flames of the candle of velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] like a moth attracted to flames. We are proud of ourselves. Our salutations to the essence of the candle of guidance, velayat-e faqih, for the Lord has ordered us to prove our faith in "obedience to God, obedience to the prophet and those designated by them."

He also offered his congratulations and condolences on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Haj Mostafa Khomeyni, and in connection with the exalted character of that martyr stated:

Haj Mostafa was one of the well known scholars of Qom Theological Center and one of the bright stars of the world of knowledge and excellence. His martyrdom, as interpreted by the great leader of the revolution, was a hidden blessing of God which, once again, fomented the flames of the revolution and led to the defeat of the decayed imperial system.

In conclusion, Mr. Rowhanizadeh pointed out the problems of his constituency and called for their resolution.

Seyyed Hasan al-Hoseyni, the Representative of the People of Arak: The Day When the Differences Between the Interests of Muslims and Those of Infidels Are Removed, Either We Have Become Like Them or They Have Become Like Us

Mr. Seyyed Hasan al-Hoseyni, the representative of the people of Arak, was the second pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Majles.

He stated: The truth is that the economic state of the country and subsequently the people's condition is not well. The people's income, especially the sector that is subject to a fixed income, not only has not had any growth and the hollow promises of the appropriate

officials have not remedied their ills, but also salaries are determined on the basis of a market based on seven toman per dollar [exchange rate], while the value of the dollar has surpassed 140 toman.

He added: In accord with this development, social services—private as well as public—have adjusted themselves to the new economic condition (the policy of devaluating the rial) and have become more expensive. This has had direct effect on family expenses, despite their fixed incomes. On the other hand, the industrial sector—mostly public enterprises that manufacture government goods—is suffering from the same fate. In some instances, it has resorted to several-fold increases in the prices of some products.

The private sector realized the situation even before the government, conformed to the decline in the real value of the rial in comparison with foreign currencies and has been offering goods and services at higher prices. Since there are no controls over prices, the price-gouging rate must also be added to the rate of inflation. When we add the international rate of inflation, sabotage, economic corruption, and illegitimate individual profiteering culture to the aforementioned elements, we can realize the amount of pressure on the society's middle and lower classes.

However, the income and expenses of families as reflected by statistics, their sorry and worrisome state of affairs, is indicative of such pressures. The esteemed president, the esteemed government, the esteemed Majles, and those who have risen from these classes must find a solution for this situation and no other issue must overshadow this issue or, God forbid, distract us from the task at hand.

He added: In this connection, it seems that the government must implement the following:

Control prices; otherwise, we will continue to witness their untoward increase.

The fixed or floating real exchange rate of the national currency, compared to the dollar, should be announced in order to serve as a base for social and economic transactions as well as public and private planning.

Based on the new national economic policies, in which the value of the national currency has fallen, and in view of the determining role of the dollar in the substance of social expenses, salaries must rise at least three-fold. Of course, many side issue will be introduced—such as the effects of wage increases in the national economy, raising the current budget of organizations, and placing a number of poor people in the society under the cover of government services.

In continuation, the speaker stated: The new system of paying wages and salaries, based on the realities and values, has not yet been introduced. It is not clear why the National Administration and Employment Affairs Organization does not tend to its natural tasks and

suggest a new administrative system? Does it believe that we are suffering any less than the billions [of dollars] inflicted directly as a result of the war for not having a suitable administrative system? I believe our losses are much more than this and this organization must be accountable.

Confronting the destructive part of the service sector, which not only hindered production, work, and serious efforts in the country, but also disrupted and destroyed the logical and reasonable equilibrium of the economic sectors.

He added: Serious threats from world arrogance still loom. Of late, America has been working on the two important issues of "Islam" and "Europe". What threatens the interests of America is the pure Moham-maden Islam, which coincides with the sovereignty of nations. It is simple-mindedness if we believe that animosities have ended. The day when the differences between the interests of Muslims and those of infidels and heretics are removed, either we have become like them or they have become like us. Therefore, it becomes evident that the ignorant people who—by adopting positions in alignment with America—are trying to, even in sovereignty, suggest and create common interests and cooperation, despite differing strategies, and thus depict the exalted and divine as the lowly and material goals are either adherents to American Islam, in the service of their world or agents of that damned system. Still, conspiracies conceived by America in the region are in pursuit of several goals:

1. Ever more support of Israel, and conversely being endorsed by the occupying regime of Qods. We are witnessing bloody massacres in occupied Palestine aimed at furthering the evil goals of Zionists, which include the putting off of the intifadah and forcing the migration of Palestinians still remaining in their land.

2. Causing developments in Jordan in favor of Palestinians.

3. Creation of secure borders for Israel, concerning their linkage with the Muslim revolutionaries of Lebanon.

4. Punishing the so-called revolutionary wing in the region.

5. Opposing the new power of Europe by controlling their vital energy sources in the strategic Middle East region.

6. Formation of a new and effective military-security pact so that American and Western interests can be protected against the pure and expanding Islam.

Therefore, the faction and individuals leaning toward America and the West must know that still the enemy is maintaining its offensive and malicious posture and is not seeking peaceful coexistence based on humane values and maintaining the interests of both sides.

In another part of his remarks, the speaker said: The society's cultural problems take precedence over all

other problems. Solutions must be sought for them, although—due to the lack of attention by the Ministry of Education and Training and the incompetence that is rampant there—there does not seem to be a clear impression of any resolution and correction of the current situation in this massive cultural organization. We shall continue to witness the precedence of anti-values over values and the prevalence of emptiness among the youth and teen-agers. Anyhow, the Voice and Vision, the Culture and Higher Education [Ministry], and the Islamic Guidance [Ministry] must heed so that culture—which is fundamental to everything and its importance has been repeatedly noted by the imam and the exalted leadership of the revolution—fulfills its mission well.

He noted: We should not seek to cause problems for ourselves internally. Nowadays, instead of solving the numerous problems facing the people, allaying their difficulty to secure their very sustenance and in this precipitance of the culture of irresponsibility and triteness and threats that American has posed in the region that belongs to Muslims, it is not advised to attempt to settle old scores and create an internal strife for the country. As was the character of the late imam, defense of the sacred aspirations of the revolution and creation of balance in utilization of forces serving the revolution, factions of the so-called line of the imam neither side will have a winner. Not only will both sides lose, but also the revolution will lose. I insistently ask the exalted leader of the revolution to arbitrate and, in a fatherly fashion, with his wisdom do not allow one faction to destroy another which will, subsequently, lead to destroying the children of the revolution. In God's name, this cannot end in favor of the revolution by any rationale and judgment. One faction alone (although it might claim) cannot administer the affairs of the country. Considering this, the late imam had achieved a balance in this regard—despite his favorable view of one or the other faction. I must state that, for your information, there are bands being formed in some cities in order to dishonor the forces of the revolution. Such aspersions of honor are sacrilegious and contrary to the principles of the Islamic revolution. In all of this, there is no refuge for the pious and the innocent.

In conclusion, he gave notices to the responsible officials regarding the resolution of the problems of his constituency.

Sadeq Khalkhali, the Representative of the People of Qom: The House in Which I Reside Was Confiscated and Not Worth More Than 7-8 Million Tomans, But Since Then the Value Has Appreciated

The third and last pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Khalkhali, from the Qom constituency. He offered his condolences on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Mr. Mostafa Khomeyni and then in his remarks stated:

The exalted leadership is very valuable for us. This position is an exalted position and all of our system is dependent upon the leadership. We, with all our flesh and blood, sacrifice ourselves for the leadership. We

have made a covenant and shall honor this covenant. At the same time, we have some advice to offer his presence. With God as my witness, I offer this advice only because of concern and based on the principle of "Advice is the leader of Muslims." He may accept this advice or he may not accept this advice. If there are any issues, they are due to caring and not as a sign of animosity and resentment. We shall never go as far as when letters from Qom were addressed to the late imam and assertions were made to the effect that, "we are awaiting until some of the certain sacrileges can be overturned by your pen and your hand." Concerning that letter, the imam said: if you take out the abusive language from that letter, it will be the same as the letters from the Freedom Movement.

In continuation, the speaker added: We do not wish to say that when the imam of the nation passed away, his decrees and sanctions passed away as well. Are we like this Ibn-Tabmiyyeh Hurani, who heads the Wahhabi sect, and who has issued in *Menhaj ol-Sanneh* [title of a book] a decree contrary to the tradition of the prophet by which they are saying what they could not while the imam was still alive? And that is, in effect, when the prophet died, when 'Ali died, and when the imam died their decrees were abrogated.

The representative of the people of Qom then pointed to the path of the late imam's movement and said: Why did the imam become the imam? The imam revolted in the year 1341 [21 March 1962-20 March 1963]. On 5 Jun 1963, he was imprisoned. He was kept in the Eshratyab and Saltanatabad prisons and arrived here from Pursa and Najaf with his cassettes and his words.

He came to Iran from Paris and Neuf Le Chateau. With his arrival, Satan and evil escaped. The 2,500 year old imperial system collapsed. America was forced out of this land and was kicked out, howling, by the brave youth of this nation, men and women.

The imam of the nation administered wisely the war, which was imposed upon the Iranian nation. When the Iranian nation saw the dignified rank which had assumed the position of the prophets, they went to him and said, "we are all your soldiers Khomeyni, we are all awaiting your orders Khomeyni." With such support and events...like the cane of Moses and the blessed hand that he had...you think you can blind this movement?! You think you can resume the process of purging the imam?! The path that Savak [the shah's secret police] and America used to follow is being resumed by us?! As long as this nation, this republic, and this exalted leader of ours, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, exist, this path shall continue. Who are you to say in a gathering that, "when the imam died, his decrees died." You are the one who died and in fact you had died.

I destroyed the Savakis [members of the shah's secret police] in Iran and now I do not expect not to be the subject of scorn. RESALAT also claims that I have a 70-million toman house.

I wrote: Give me the address. The house in which I reside was confiscated and not worth more than 7-8 million tomans, but since then the value has appreciated.

In this judgment and dispute between the majority and minority in the Majles, the referee of the match is RESALAT newspaper. According to daily wishes, it spreads division. Perhaps the disrespect to the exalted position of the clergy, which has been dealt out during the past 10 years by the daily RESALAT, is matched by none other. Whenever this newspaper praises us, then you should know that we are misfits. You [RESALAT] are writing too much about subjects.

Concerning the issue of the revolution's non-reliance on an individual, the representative of the people of Qom said:

The imam stated that the revolution does not rely on an individual. It means that if, God forbid, Ayatollah Mr. Khamene'i is martyred, the revolution will not collapse. The revolution will remain in its place. What do you say? You wish to act by sacrificing one faction for the sake of another (which I call a faction). Our system has two wings. I did not make up the Combatant Clergy [Rowhaniyun-e Mobarez], but some of the leading figures went to the imam and asked, "Do something for them to become one." And the imam said: No, it should remain as two.

The Combatant Clergy, some of whom claim to be radicals and extremists, are not extremists. There are two trends, two thoughts, and two intellects. As long as the memory of the imam is alive, his decrees must remain alive in the Islamic Republic of Iran. As a matter of fact, what I am stating is accepted by our exalted leadership. These two trends must be maintained.

In another part of his remarks, Mr. Khalkhali pointed out: You go on the pulpit and speak in a manner in which there is no talk of a "Fateh" [Chapter in the Koran denoting the opening but meaning the end], there is no talk of sending one to heaven and one to hell. It is only the "Fateh" of the Combatant Clergy and the defeated. Although the imam wrote to him and said, "Sit in your place because there is another letter in this regard," he made an accusation to a Muslim and a Seyyed from the house of the prophet, and the imam said: Why are you making the accusation of heresy and communism to someone? He has not learned from those lessons, he goes to the pulpit in the Qolhak mosque and says, "We shall punish, we shall teach, we shall pass the files." What files? If there had been any files, you would have revealed them by now.

The representative of the people of Qom continued with his expectations from the exalted leadership and said: As the imam settled the score between these factions and at times scolded them, I expect our exalted leader to do likewise. At the same time, if the exalted leader scolds us and complains about us, we will have nothing to say in response, because we are not saints.

The speaker then referred to the issue of criticism and said: I would like to say that we should not be offended by criticism. Now, if someone criticizes, he becomes an infidel and a heretic, a rightist or a leftist. Such talks are not the issue. Our big enemy, as suggested by our imam in his will, is America, and about which he said: America is a criminal. America is the great Satan. America is blood-sucking. America wishes to secure a foothold for itself by conspiracies, staging coup d'etats, and aggression. There is no flexibility and change in the foreign policy of America and the methods of the CIA, the Pentagon, and the FBI. They are the ones who have maintained Israel. This morning, the Voice of America radio said that America has placed 750 million dollars at the disposal of Israel. Well, of course it finds this in its interest. America has collected a bunch of Arab parasites, the likes of these parasite rulers, and brought them to the Persian Gulf, and it is for their sake that it has vetoed the Security Council decision. Our enemy America expresses regret and howls for the killings of three Israelis and Zionists by one of our brave youth and statements are issued by the White House. On the other hand, all these Palestinians are destroyed and killed and it does not utter a word. We must at last wage war on America. This is the order of our exalted leader, who said: "In this path, jihad and death are indeed as martyrdom." We should not forget our main enemy and get to the point that, instead of keeping the people on the scene, in the Friday Prayer in Tehran it is stated that, "You do not need houses. What do you need a house for?" but only the gentleman wants a house and so he builds one for 80 million tomans, so that he can sit at home, while it is not important whether or not the people have homes.

The Deputy Speaker's Remarks

After the pre-agenda speakers' remarks during yesterday's open session of the Majles, Mr. Bayat, the deputy speaker of the Majles, referred to the anniversary of the martyrdom of the exalted spiritualist, Martyr Mostafa Khomeyni, and said:

In view of the sensitivity with which the imperial regime and its master dealt with the family of the imam and the future of his movement, they tried to create some obstructions and barriers to block this divine source and the revolutionary movement. In this connection, they resorted to many conspiracies—one of which was to take this loved one from the Islamic nation.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Bayat stated: This great man, great jurist, spiritualist, and scholarly crusader, was taken from the Islamic nation in Najaf Theological Center as a result of a conspiracy perpetrated by Savak, with the cooperation of the Iraqi regime. This martyr was a great divine source. It was certainly a great tragedy which befell the Islamic and scientific world and the Elmiyeh Center.

In another part of his remarks, the deputy speaker of the Majles said: The gracious imam considered this calamity a hidden blessing of God, because it was the beginning of

the formation, movement, mobilization, and the revelation of the people against the imperial regime. It reached the point where the revolution, the revolutionary movement, and massive marches began in this Islamic country, and the grounds for today's fruit of this hidden blessing was prepared.

He was indeed the inheritor of the imam's intellect. He was raised by a man who, over 80 years, only believed that "Allah is our Lord"; He had conditioned himself, was a spiritualist, an intellectual, a jurist, and a seeker of God.

In conclusion, he said: We shall refrain from thinking that—as the imam stated—in our search for followers of true Mohammadan Islam and American Islam, we must look beyond the borders and think that this exists in the outside world. In his interpretations in messages the imam issued to the sources of emulation and the clergy all across the country, there were various statements. The imam presented all those interested with special models and formulas for introduction and recognition of these two trends. Indeed, we can achieve this by observing the method of approach of this great martyr [Mostafa Khomeyni]. Have the people forgotten the imam's remark at the theological center stating, "These were the people who, in this sacred Qom Theological Center, when my son 'Haj Mostafa' drank water from a jar, they would cleanse the jar. They have not left this world and are still here." Therefore, one of our most important duties is to safeguard the thoughts and ideas in sincerity. Fortunately, the exalted leadership has clear and hopeful interpretations, one of which is, "I will decisively defend and support the ideas and thoughts of the imam to the end." God willing, we hope to see alive the name of the imam, the line of the imam, and the names of such great martyrs as Mr. Mostafa Khomeyni, Motahari, and Beheshti.

Edicts

RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent's report indicates that the legal plan of the National Iranian Library Charter was the first item on the agenda of yesterday's Majles session. After discussions and deliberations by the deputies, several articles of this plan were ratified.

Based on Article I of this plan, the National Library of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is referred to as the National Library in the charter, is an educational, scientific research and service institution which, based on this charter, shall be administered under the direct supervision and administration of the presidency and shall be located in Tehran.

Article II. The National Library is a public institution and its budget shall be stated in the national budget, under an independent heading, under the president's appropriations.

Article III. Goals:

1. Collection, maintenance, organization, and dissemination of information related to written (printed or hand-written) and unwritten materials in Iran or belonging to Iranians outside the country.

2. Collection, maintenance, organization, and dissemination of information related to written (printed or hand-written) and unwritten materials in the areas of Iranian studies, Islamic studies—especially the Islamic revolution led by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni (may his soul be placed in heaven).

3. Collection, maintenance, organization, and dissemination of information related to written and unwritten credible scientific, cultural, and technical materials of other countries.

4. Library Research and scientific planning, informing, and participation in appropriate international research and other related activities.

5. Adopting guidelines and making appropriate decisions for correctness and ease in research and studies in all fields, in order to elevate the national culture and conduct related research.

6. To conduct consultations, to supervise, to offer guidance, and to offer technical services, planning, and organization of libraries across the country.

7. Presentation of suitable methods of information exchange for the purpose of coordinating the services and activities of public and specialized libraries.

Incorrect Statistics

On Tuesday of last week, one of the deputies in the Majles—alluding to some generalities, presumptions, and incorrect statistics—made some statements and reached certain conclusions. We found it necessary to investigate the matter, in order to clarify how such people—who are considered by the people as models for thinking and election—think. In a part of his remarks, he stated: (In the experts elections) "the sixth largest number of votes in Tehran Province was cast for Mr. Mohammad Gilani, which amounted to about 590,977 votes." This statistic is completely incorrect, and the number of votes cast for Ayatollah Gilani in Tehran Province was 844,713 votes.

1. By presenting this incorrect statistic, he concluded: "In the political province of Tehran, which is the largest province in the country, considering the fact that Mr. Sarhadizadeh was in sixth place on the experts' list, those who voted for him would have also voted for the Combatant Clergy's list."

Although the Interior Ministry has not revealed the experts' votes for the city of Tehran, but based on the same logic, the number of votes cast for the sixth person is over 840,000, while Mr. Sarhadizadeh received 614,000 votes.

2. He stated that two-thirds of those who voted for Mr. Hashemi and Haj Ahmad Khomeyni were those who also voted for Mr. Sarhadizadeh.

Well, if we accept this hypothesis, who were the remaining one-third? If we take notice, the number of votes cast for Mr. Hashemi in the city of Tehran is over 1 million and the number cast for Mr. Sarhadizadeh is about 600,000. Therefore, considering that he has split the society into two and has not considered a third sector, then those who voted for Mr. Asgarowladi must have also voted for Mr. Hashemi. If we add his [Asgarowladi's] 450,000 votes with those cast for Mr. Sarhadizadeh, the result is about equal to the number of votes cast for His Excellency Mr. Hashemi and Mr. Haj Ahmad Khomeyni in the city of Tehran. Therefore, the assertion that "those who voted for Mr. Asgarowladi did not vote for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr. Haj Ahmad" is completely baseless. After all, how could he find out whether the people follow one faction or the other. Indeed, is it not possible that there are some people who cast their votes for other reasons (other than following this faction or that) for every one of the candidates, certainly the number of such people will not be little. Based on their recognition, interests, propaganda, and etc., people cast their votes for whomever they wish. They do not think strictly along factional and ideological lines, as some politicians do.

3. The representative of Tehran has claimed that two-thirds of the participants in these elections are followers of the so-called radical or extremist faction. This is considering that, for example, Mr. Emami-Kashani has gained over two-thirds of the experts votes by receiving 1,186,209 votes. Then, certainly as far as he is concerned, radicals must not have voted for him.

4. He stated: "If the Combatant Clergy and the progressive groups in Tehran had circulated a list, certainly all of their candidates would have been elected in Tehran."

A. If the progressive groups were certain that all their candidates would be elected, then why didn't they adhere to the Elections Law and introduce a candidate? If they consider the standard to be the vote of the people, then why didn't they pay attention to this obvious principle of democracy, and some of them even withdrew their candidacy.

B. Such classification of people has been proven wrong many times. The people have never cast absolute votes for a electoral list in any election.

In the interim elections of the Majles, Mr. Asgarowladi gained more votes than Mr. Sarhadizadeh, and it is interesting that Mr. Asgharzadeh went to the Majles with 412,064 votes, which is 25 percent of the eligible voters in the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989].

Also, Mr. Mohtashami went to the Majles by gaining 225,570 of the total 661,478 votes. Now, considering such a variety in votes, how can Mr. Asgharzadeh claim

that all of the candidates of the "progressive groups" would have gained the adequate votes?!

5. In another part of his speech, this Majles deputy has stated that: "From 31 million eligible voters, about 11 million participated in the elections."

He has announced the eligible voters (of 15 years and older) to be 31 million, while—considering that the elections were not held in Gilan Province, Bushehr, and Sistan va Baluchestan—this number is not correct. If we subtract the number of eligible voters in these provinces from the total number of eligible voters all over the country, we will have 28,594,285 voters, which is 2,391,901 fewer than 31 million.

Deviation and incorrect statistics do not end here. He then concludes from his wrong statistics that, "What is so glorious about this issue? Is the participation of less than one-third of the eligible voters in an election glorious?" It is a rare and delicate situation when a person, based on his wrong claims, attempts to reduce the statistics of the number of participants in an election. This must be noted, and we must not fall prey to the same trick that misled the grouplets, who thought that the 11 million votes cast by the people for the presidency had been for them personally; We must learn from their fate. We saw how the Muslim people did not even allow those who had started to talk about victory in the second term of presidency—before the first one had even begun—to finish even the first term. These people, in due time, take back their votes as decisively as they vote. We should learn from the fate of the former deputy from Karaj, so that the Almighty shall strengthen our steps on the road of guidance.

Seyyed 'Aziz Hoseyni-Rostami

*RESALAT Editorial Criticizes Khalkhali

91AS0181A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
24 Oct 90 pp 1, 12

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

His Excellency Mr. Khalkhali, in his pre-agenda speech of yesterday, stated: "We sacrifice ourselves, our flesh, our blood, and our existence for the leadership and we have made a pledge and will stand behind this covenant. However, we have some reminders to offer to him." We must indicate to Mr. Khalkhali that the pulpit of the Majles or the mass media are not places to state reminders, sympathetic or otherwise, to the exalted vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult]. Is it not true that when the leader of the time of the Muslims unequivocally expresses his view regarding an issue it is the final talk and the last word and every member of the society must obey and follow it as a divine decree? If this is the case, then what reason is there for a reminder to be expressed through the mass media after the final word has been uttered? What happens if all feel entitled to give reminders in this fashion? Is there going to be any basis

left for implementation of divine decrees, for which the exalted leadership is the enunciator.

How come you who consider "the private letter from Qom," addressed to the sacred presence of his eminence the imam, may God's heaven be his resting place, to be inappropriate are now using the pulpit of the Majles to state your case to his eminence [Khamene'i] concerning a matter which the exalted leadership has already expressed his unequivocal view? This is your undisputed right and religious obligation to state any reminder or advice you might have to offer the exalted leadership in private and act in accordance with whatever the views of his eminence might be.

Your Excellency Mr. Khalkhali, why have you who condemn "the private letter from Qom" kept silent regarding the assertions in BAYAN publication, the statement issued by the Combatant Clergy [Rowhaniyun-e Mobarez] concerning the Assembly of Experts elections and the statements of some of your friends who have violated many sanctities?

Your Excellency Mr. Khalkhali, how come you kept silent when Mr. Asgharzadeh, Tehran deputy, presented such incorrect statistical analysis of the Assembly of Experts elections and said, "What is so great about this elections issue," when he questioned the religious adherence of participation in the elections and the legal decisions of the Assembly of Experts as well as sarcastically referred to the legal conduct of the Council of Guardians by referring to it as "legal cover" and considered the "divine rule" from top to bottom and the "election of the best" as dark reactionary belief?

Your Excellency Mr. Khalkhali, how come you kept silent and did not scream at him in a brotherly fashion when your other friend Mr. Najafqoli Habibi, Tehran deputy, questioned the whole of the regime and its domestic and foreign decisions and tried to convince the people that the Islamic revolution is being transformed through "law"? Is it not true that during the blessed time of his eminence the imam foreign policy was under the direct supervision of his eminence and today it is being composed by the Supreme National Security Council and approved by the leadership? Then why did you allow Mr. Habibi to make such statements? (Footnote 1) (Mr. Najafqoli Habibi's pre-agenda speech, RESALAT Monday 22 Oct 90) Are the hezbollahi forces being eliminated in most government organizations, prompting the Tehran deputy to consider it to be certain and depicting it as a violation of the imam's line?

Then, indeed, how come you remained silent when Mr. Asgharzadeh likened a group of hezbollahi forces in the city of Tehran to the band of the brainless Sha'ban [Ja'fari of the Mosaddeq era]? (Footnote 2) (Mr. Asgharzadeh's speech, ABRAR Wednesday 17 Oct 90 p 6)

Mr. Khalkhali, you have correctly considered the act of "clearing out the imam" as the work of the SAVAK [the shah's secret police] and America. But isn't "absolute

rule of the supreme jurisconsult" the most valuable inheritance of that beloved?

Did the imam (God's mercy be upon him) implement absolute rule of the supreme jurisconsult for himself alone and thus emphasized upon it? Did not his eminence state, "The jurist who has been selected for this nation and has been made the imam of the nation is the one who breaks down these dictatorships and gathers everyone under the banner of Islam and brings about the rule of law." (Footnote 3) (Remark by the imam—God's mercy be upon him—on 9 Nov 1989)

Then, how come you and your friends have condemned the law of the Experts?

Isn't the meaning of the celebrated expression of "follower of the line of the imam" following the jurist ruler of the time? Did not the people vote for the Constitution in which the absolute rule of the supreme jurisconsult is pivotal? Was it not right for you and your friend to issue a statement and urge the people to participate in the elections?

Messrs. Asgharzadeh and Habibi stated that such a censorship has been forced upon the mass media that they even refrain from publishing the letter of the leadership of the Majles and the Combatant Clergy. Is such a statement regarding the regime sympathetic, friendly, and compassionate? The letter of the leadership of the Majles was published by the media. Is it in the interest of the Combatant Clergy, however, if their statement regarding the Experts elections is published—which of course will be accompanied by some explanations?

Mr. Khalkhali, like yourself, we wish for the esteemed Combatant Clergy Association to remain as a wing of the revolution, to support the rule of the supreme jurisconsult, and to act as a servant of the people and the revolution. It is for these reasons that we refrained from publishing their statement. We have a great deal of respect for the combatant, well-reputed, and revolutionary clergy, who are among the members of that esteemed association, and we assign great value to their presence on the scene of the revolution.

Mr. Khalkhali, the argument of sacrificing one faction for another is a deviating argument. The action of the jurists of the Council of Guardians is so clear that that there is no room for questioning. Both factions were treated equally. Both factions were tested, and members from both factions failed the examinations. Also, those who did not participate in the examinations, from both factions, were failed. And, according to the exalted leader of the revolution, it is not meant as a cause for rudeness towards those whose qualifications were not approved for any reason. They are all distinguished and respected.

It seems that some of those who nowadays have adopted the "elimination of one faction" as their slogan evaluate the issues with their own yardstick. These were the same who until yesterday were planning the elimination of the opposition faction in the Ministry of Interior (even to the

level of Mayor and Lieutenant Governor), Education and Training, the Majles, and etc. Thus they see everything from the angle of factionalism—which is an argument all by itself.

***Clashes at Javadieh Slaughterhouse Reported**

91AS0286A London KEYHAN in Persian
8 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] In demonstrations and bloody clashes that took place Saturday this week, 3 November, at the Javadieh slaughterhouse in south Tehran between slaughterhouse workers and a number of south Tehran residents on one side and the regime's security forces on the other, the security officials fired a volley of bullets at the workers and demonstrators and killed a number of them. The names of three of those killed have reached us.

The clash followed continued unrest by the workers at the Javadieh slaughterhouse because their weekly wages were cut off. The workers at the slaughterhouse are paid 360 toman per week in fixed wages, but several weeks ago slaughterhouse officials stopped paying this weekly worker wage on the pretext that there were no animals to slaughter.

On Saturday, the Javadieh slaughterhouse workers went to the slaughterhouse officials to get their wages, but a positive answer was not given to them. The talks and disputes between the unhappy workers and the officials led to a clash, and the regime's security officials were summoned to the slaughterhouse.

The Javadieh slaughterhouse workers did not back down from their position with the arrival of the security officials. Efforts by the officials to disperse the workers also produced no result, and finally, after almost an hour, a clash erupted between the workers, who were supported by a group of people from Javadieh, and the regime's officials. The regime's officials, who were small in number compared to the demonstrators, resorted to the use of semi-automatic and automatic weapons, especially since some of the slaughterhouse workers had knives and daggers and were attacking the officials with them.

A reliable source told KEYHAN that a larger number of the workers and demonstrators were killed by the volley of bullets from the officials. After the crowd dispersed, which took place after dark, the officials threw the bodies of some of the ones killed into the Firuzabad River, which passes by the slaughterhouse.

Almost 100 of the wounded were taken to Firuzabad Hospital in Shahr-e Rey, and a number were also taken to the Seven Tir Hospital in Shahr-e Rey.

The report that reached KEYHAN Monday morning states that 17 of the injured died of their wounds at Firuzabad Hospital. On Monday, family members of these individuals were not given permission to visit the wounded.

In telephone contacts with Seven Tir and Firuzabad hospitals, both hospitals refused to give information

about the wounded hospitalized there, but they did not deny the presence at the hospital of injured people from this incident.

The three persons killed in this clash whose names reached us are: Haj Heybatollah Afzali—a prominent Varamin rancher who had come to the slaughterhouse to market livestock, Reza Kamyab, and 'Abbas Solfjehi.

A report reaching KEYHAN states that the regime's security officials also arrested and took with them the manager of the Javadieh slaughterhouse, named Asghar'ali Naqi.

Demonstrations at Railroad Square and the Grain Warehouse

One day after the workers at Javadieh slaughterhouse were put down, the people of south Tehran staged scattered demonstrations at the Fruit and Grain Square market and Railroad Square.

The demonstrations at the Fruit and Grain Square market were because of unhappiness on the part of the square shopkeepers about the government's decision to move the site of Fruit and Grain Square outside the city of Tehran, behind Ayatollah Khomeyni's grave.

The regime's officials told the square shopkeepers that each person must pay 15 million rials to obtain a place and a shop at the new Fruit and Grain Square site. This produced severe dissatisfaction among the square's owners.

The scattered demonstrations at the grain warehouse on Monday, 4 November, spread to Railroad Square. At this same time last year, clashes between the people and the regime's officials led to the killing of a number of people.

The source that initially gave KEYHAN the report on the demonstrations and the shooting at Javadieh slaughterhouse said that some religious elements opposed to Rafsanjani were also involved, and they took advantage of what was happening and encouraged it.

The Friends of Iran Society in London also told foreign news agencies that in these demonstrations the registered proclamation and pictures of Reza Pahlavi, king of Iran, were circulated among the people.

The source told KEYHAN that, in the Saturday clash, a number of officials of the regime's committee and revolutionary guards were seriously injured by the slaughterhouse workers, but KEYHAN received no report of any revolutionary guard deaths.

***Skirmishes With Revolution Guards Noted**

91AS0259B London KEYHAN in Persian
15 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] In clashes and killings last month on 3-4 November a number of workers at the Javadieh slaughterhouse and a prominent Varamin rancher named Haj Heybatollah Afzali were killed by Revolution Guard members. After his funeral Friday this week (9 November), members of the Hedavand tribe and members of

Afzali's family attacked and occupied the Revolution Guard base in the municipality of Varamin.

A report from Tehran states that the funeral services for Haj Heybatollah Afzali, held at Varamin's Ja'far Emamzadeh and attended by a large number of the people of Varamin, members of the Hedavand tribe, and members of Afzali's family, ended quietly at sunset on Friday because of the presence of a large number of revolutionary guards, but after it got dark and the funeral service ended, members of the Hedavand tribe and supporters of Haj Heybatollah Afzali attacked the revolutionary guard base in Varamin and occupied it.

The same report said that a member of the Pelangdarreh family took responsibility for the attack on the Revolution Guards.

After learning of the Varamin incident, Revolution Guard headquarters did not send reinforcements to the Varamin region until Saturday morning, but after Saturday they sent reinforcements to the region to put down the Hedavand tribe. Despite this, on Saturday demonstrations by the people of Varamin and the discontented spread to the Siman bridge in the city of Rey, leading to clashes between the people and the revolutionary guards.

As the unrest continued, Revolution Guard forces were sent to Varamin from Tehran, the city of Rey, and other surrounding areas. By Saturday morning all roads leading to Varamin were blocked by Revolution Guards, including the Rey road and the Khorasan road, and the areas around Varamin, especially the areas inhabited by the Hedavand tribe, were surrounded.

The latest report on this states that some members of the Hedavand tribe and the Pelangdarreh family have been arrested, and a number of them fled to Tehran and went into hiding.

As the newspaper was going to press, there was no word of the fate of the Hedavand tribe, which had been surrounded by Revolution Guard forces.

Observers of conditions in Iran consider the unrest to the south of Tehran and areas in that vicinity to be a regional incident in the nation's disturbed condition.

***Efforts To Encourage Return of Emigres Outlined**

91AS0286C London KEYHAN in Persian
8 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] Continuing its unsuccessful efforts to persuade Iranians outside the country to return to Iran, the Islamic Republic regime has recently also extended its efforts in this area to opposition groups and individuals. For example, an unofficial representative of the Islamic Republic in Paris, who is active in an international organization affiliated with the United Nations, has recently made numerous contacts with opposition groups and individuals, especially members of leftist organizations, and has asked them gradually to distance themselves from the regime's "hopeless" opponents and

to reduce their opposition to the regime, and especially to the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, so he can arrange for them to return to the country without difficulty. Among the proposals in this area made to the persons in question is that they make a special attack on Reza Pahlavi and portray the monarchists as unimportant and defeated. This unofficial "representative" emphasizes to the regime's "reformable" opponents that the only hope for the return of peace and security to the country is the success of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, so that he can gradually push his opponents aside and act on the demands of the public.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

***Mob' Stones National Democratic Party Meeting**

BK1312133290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] In Nepal, several people were injured at a public meeting when a mob started pelting stones. The meeting was organized by the National Democratic Party, Thapa group, at Banipal this afternoon. Our Kathmandu correspondent reports that the party president and former prime minister, Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, and some of the party leaders escaped unhurt. Our correspondent adds that this is the third time in the recent past in which mobs pelted stones on public meetings organized by political parties.

Protest Lodged With India Over Border Intrusion

BK1412004090 Hong Kong AFP in English 2208 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 13 (AFP)—Nepal has strongly protested to India the recent armed intrusion by a group of 25 Central Reserve Police from West Bengal across its eastern border, a Nepalese Home Ministry spokesman said Thursday. The spokesman said the policemen had crossed the border from West Bengal on December 3 in a bid to arrest several people. No reason was given for the arrests. The spokesman said this was the second time the Indian police had crossed in the Ilam area in the last year.

Related reports reaching here Thursday said Indian nationals had begun building huts on the disputed Susta border area in the southwest.

An earlier three-day meeting of a high-level Indo-Nepalese joint border commission had agreed to erect border posts properly delineating the disputed area before the end of this year, but the recent political upheaval in Nepal had delayed the work, an official said.

Committee To Hear Complaints of Striking Workers
*BK1212140890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1332 GMT
12 Dec 90*

[Text] Kathmandu, Dec 12 (AFP)—Nepal's interim government has set up a Central Coordination Committee (CCC) to liaise with civil servants threatening protest action, a government source here said Wednesday.

The CCC would study the grievances of more than 170,000 civil servants and employees of 76 state-run corporations who had threatened to take to the streets if their pay and working conditions were not improved, said the source from the Nepalese General Administration Ministry. It would also suggest ways to resolve the dispute, the source said.

Nepal electricity authority workers have also threatened to strike if their management does not agree to similar demands by next week, the workers' spokesman Krishna Mohan Joshi said.

They would take industrial action from December 25 culminating with Nepal Electricity Authority employees turning up to their offices but not working and if their demands were not met by December 31, they would halt any movement of the authority's vehicles, he said.

Meanwhile, the king has given his assent to a bill on general elections scheduled for April, the Cabinet Secretariat said Wednesday.

A Nepal Communist Party faction has told people not to vote in the elections, saying the country's newly promulgated Constitution ran against the public interest, a party source said. But an official with another Communist Party faction said an election boycott would only strengthen "reactionaries."

Sri Lanka

State Defense Minister on Tamil Rebels, Refugees
*BK0712115690 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 7 Dec 90*

[Text] Two hundred and two soldiers of the 299, who were in the Mankulam camp at the time its attack, have reported to Vavuniya up to yesterday. This included 10 officers. Minister of Plantation Industries and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne said this when he addressed the weekly news conference at the parliamentary complex yesterday. The minister said that at Palame a STF [Special Task Force] patrol that was traveling at about 0630 [0100 GMT] in the morning on the 3d of this month was ambushed by a group of 15 terrorists. An isolated group in the jungles fired at a jeep at the 10th mile post, killing six soldiers and injuring one. At this stage, the minister refuted the figures quoted by newspapers on this incident and requested the print media to get correct information from authorized officers without picking them up on their own. He said the STF was now

combing the jungles in the area where the ambush took place and was looking for the terrorists.

Referring to the present situation in the Mannar, the minister said that the Tamil refugees have returned to their homes. Shops and other establishments were also functioning on a limitless scale. But the Muslim refugees are yet to return. The forces have requested them to go back. A delegation was expected to visit the area and reassess the situation. At present, 300 Muslim youths are undergoing training as national guards. The first batch will complete training this week, while the next will be out by the 10th, Monday.

The situation in the Batticaloa District is reported to be normal. About 13,000 families have returned. Seventy percent of the shops and other establishments are functioning. Government departments and schools are also functioning. The railway track is also being repaired with the help of the Army. There is no shortage of food, and buffer stocks are being built up. The minister also said that at (Kalugulamillawa) in Anuradhapura, the security forces have recovered 48 shotguns, one repeater shotgun, and one locally made hand grenade belonging to the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] and hidden in the jungle. Arms and ammunition, food items, and posters have also been recovered from Kiran, Kalmunai, Kayts, and Trincomalee.

The secretary to the Ministry of Defense, General Cyril Ranatunge, said that according to reports, 2,040 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have been killed and 530 injured. However, the estimated figure, he said, was 2,500 killed and 1,750 injured. Four hundred and seventy-two soldiers have lost their lives. Thousand six hundred and twenty soldiers have been injured.

New Organization for Communal Unity Formed
*BK1312114890 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] A new organization called the Eastern People's United Front was formed on Tuesday [11 November] to unite the Sinhala, Tamil, and Muslim communities in the east. The objective of this Front would be to unite the three communities in the area, stabilize peace, and to formulate proposals for resolving the problems amongst the people in the east.

The president of the organization, Speaker M.H. Mohamed, said that this would operate without discrimination outside party politics and it would be a nonviolent organization. Mr. Mohamed told a news conference at the parliamentary complex yesterday that all Members of Parliament irrespective of party politics would become members of this organization. The new Front hopes to take necessary action by appointing committees to the three districts in the province to resolve the problems. Mr. Mohamed also said a program would be launched to inform the people about this organization.

Minister P. Dayaratne, State Minister Mrs. R.M. Pulendran, and MP's [Members of Parliament] Chandrasa Galapatti, M.K.D.S. Goonwardene, and T.A.K. Tevaraperuma also participated in the discussion.

LTTE 'Terrorists,' Army Operations Detailed

Tigers Kill 6 Civilians

*BK0812092290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0813 GMT 8 Dec 90*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 8 (LANKAPUVATH)—Six civilians were shot dead by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists in the village Panchanur, south of Muttur in the Trincomalee District on Friday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH it was not yet known whether the victims, two men, two women, and two children, were Muslims or the groups of terrorists responsible for the brutal slayings and killed five of them in the ensuing firefight. The security forces also destroyed a number of terrorist bunkers at Karumbacetty in Jaffna.

212 Soldiers Return To Camp

*BK1112115490 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 11 Dec 90*

[Text] A total of 212 soldiers and officers have now returned to the Vavuniya Army camp [from Mankulam]. The Special Task Force [STF] has conducted route-clearing and search operations in the Amparai District during the last 24 hours ending at 1200 noon yesterday.

According to a Defense Ministry communique, in the area between (Pandiar) and Kachchakoda, they recovered two plastic cans containing 50 kg of high explosives buried on the side of the main road. The STF on foot patrol in the area of (Alaijai Vinte) killed one LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist. In the Trincomalee District, the security forces clearing the area in Alippu Junction, Seruwawila, were fired upon by a group of terrorists. Two soldiers are reported killed in these incidents, and enemy casualties have not been reported. The police have recovered a steering [as heard] machine gun and ammunition in the (Makkalwadia) area.

Violence in Eastern Areas Noted

*BK1212101690 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0852 GMT 12 Dec 90*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 12 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—Fourteen LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists and five

soldiers, including an officer, were reported killed in confrontations Tuesday [11 December] in eastern Sri Lanka.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that as the dust settled on the early Tuesday morning battle between the security forces and the LTTE at Morawewa in the Trincomalee District the bodies of four LTTE terrorists were found.

Four soldiers also lost their lives when a large number of terrorists first attacked the police station (the attack was repulsed without any casualties) and turned their guns on an army foot patrol killing four soldiers. The security forces counterattacked causing a large number of terrorist casualties, including those whose bodies were later found.

Eight terrorists were killed by the security forces at Mullaittivu.

An officer was killed and a soldier wounded in an encounter with terrorists at Kalawanchikudy, also in the east.

Two terrorists were killed when the security forces foiled their attempt to attack the Muslim village of Manchol, near Valachenai. A second attack was also thwarted about 1230 hours (local time). One civilian was wounded in the cross fire.

Air Force Raid Kills 40 Tigers

*BK1312160490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] The Sri Lankan Air Force planes strafed a convoy in the northeast and killed 40 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] men today. The operation took place when militants were travelling along (Nairu-Okilai) road, about 50 km north of Trincomalee. Troops also launched search operations in the eastern part of the district to flush out the militants.

Troops Kill 67 'Militants'

*BK1412094290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Text] The Sri Lankan troops aided by helicopter gunships killed 67 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants during combing operations in the northern and eastern parts of the country. Military officials said in Colombo today that at least 48 militants were killed in a four-hour long operation yesterday. Seven armored vehicles belonging to the militants were also destroyed in the attack about 50 km north of Trincomalee.

Meanwhile, 13 more militants were killed yesterday in fighting around a military airstrip at Palali in northern Jaffna. The other militants were killed in three separate incidents.